FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

# Daily Report

# Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-084
Thursday
30 April 1992

# Daily Report
## Central Eurasia

*FBIS-SOV-92-084* CONTENTS *30 April 1992*

**NOTICE TO READERS**: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

## FRONT PAGE

## ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Byelarus Not Yet Free of All Nuclear Weapons *[INTERFAX]* .......... 3
Newspaper Says Red Mercury Being Sold Abroad *[ITAR-TASS]* .......... 3
Republics Want U.S. To Monitor Arms Transfers *[Radio Rossii]* .......... 3
Charges of Arms Treaty Noncompliance Examined *[KURANTY 29 Apr]* .......... 3
CIS, U.S. Help Sought in Chemical Destruction *[IZVESTIYA 28 Apr]* .......... 4
Delays in Chemical Weapon Disarmament Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 28 Apr]* .......... 5
Biological Weapons Conversion Considered *[IZVESTIYA 27 Apr]* .......... 7
Weapons Security 'Outweighs All Ambition' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 25 Apr]* .......... 7

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Samsonov Received by German Defense Minister *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 29 Apr]* .......... 10
CSCE Experts Arrive in Baku, Yerevan *[IZVESTIYA 28 Apr]* .......... 10
Mitterrand To Visit Baltic States 13-15 May *[BALTFAX]* .......... 10
'Educational Effect' Seen in IMF Membership *[IZVESTIYA 29 Apr]* .......... 11

## INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

### Black Sea Fleet

Talks on Black Sea Fleet Begin in Odessa .......... 12
  Continue in 'Strict Secrecy' *[Moscow Radio]* .......... 12
  Russia 'Needed Some Time' *[POSTFACTUM]* .......... 13
  Ukraine Accepts CIS Presence *[INTERFAX]* .......... 13
  Chernavin Asked To Join Talks *[INTERFAX]* .......... 13
  Ukrainian Official Interviewed *[Kiev Radio]* .......... 13
  Division Not Yet Discussed *[AFP]* .......... 14
  Second Day of Talks Commences *[TASS]* .......... 14
Naval Officers Meet To Oppose Fleet Division *[Moscow Radio]* .......... 15
Personnel Loyal to Ukraine Not Demobilized *[INTERFAX]* .......... 15

### Military

General Purpose Force Commander Interviewed *[Moscow International]* .......... 15

### Media

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 30 Apr .......... 16

## RUSSIA

### International Affairs

Gaydar Concludes Visit to U.S., Departs .......... 17
Comments on Talks With Bush *[ITAR-TASS]* .......... 17
  Comments on Yeltsin Remarks *[Moscow TV]* .......... 17
  Notes Economic Cooperation Prospects *[Moscow Radio]* .......... 18
  Says IMF Membership 'Advantageous' *[ITAR-TASS]* .......... 18

Break in Economic Relations With Cuba Rejected *[INTERFAX]* 19
Legislators Hold Talks With Cuban Opposition *[Moscow TV]* 19
Military Presence on Kurils To Continue *[INTERFAX]* 20
Position on Kuril Islands Problem 'Unchanged' *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Talks With Ukraine, Crimea Factor Viewed *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 29 Apr]* 21
Meeting With Latvia on Troop Withdrawals Opens *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
  'Customs Regime' Issue Raised *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
  Latvian Representative on Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Troop Talks With Lithuania, Latvia Viewed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 29 Apr]* 22
Deputy Foreign Minister's Baltic Trip Postponed *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
St Petersburg Talks With Estonia Postponed *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Gaydar Informed of Lithuanian Debt to Enterprises *[Russian TV]* 23
Polish Concerns Over Kaliningrad Army Rebuffed *[IZVESTIYA 21 Apr]* 23
Khasbulatov Continues Visit to Germany 24
  Talks With Kohl *[Moscow TV]* 24
  Remarks in Bonn Cited *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 29 Apr]* 24
Commission on Ethnic Germans Meets in Bonn *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
  Protocol on FRG Aid Signed *[IZVESTIYA 27 Apr]* 26
  Spokesman on Protocol *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Official Holds Talks in Bucharest on Dniester *[IZVESTIYA 22 Apr]* 26
  Comments on Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
  Meets Romanian President *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Talks With Sweden on Submarine Incursions End *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 22 Apr]* 28
Kozyrev Continues Visit to Gulf States 28
  Meets Sultan of Oman *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
  Comments on Ties With Gulf States *[Jeddah 'UKAZ 25 Apr]* 29
Yeltsin Orders Promotion of South African Ties *[INTERFAX]* 29
Ambartsumov on Need for Change in Foreign Policy *[ROSSISKAYA GAZETA 13 Apr]* 29
Gorbachev Visit to U.S. Criticized *[Moscow International]* 31

**Federation Affairs**

Shakhray Heads Efforts To Revive Cossacks *[INTERFAX]* 32
Two Parties To Form Bloc of 'Centrist Forces' *[INTERFAX]* 32
Newspaper, 'Working Russia' To Cooperate *[IZVESTIYA 29 Apr]* 32
Trade Union Federation Defends Reforms *[INTERFAX]* 32
Shatalin Claims Bureaucracy Hampers Reform *[IZVESTIYA 29 Apr]* 33
Gas Price Increase Forecast for Early May *[Radio Rossii]* 35
Censorship Reportedly 'Alive and Triumphant' *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 28 Apr]* 35
RIA-TV Head Cited on Takeover by State *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 25 Apr]* 36
Grachev, Veterans' Leaders Discuss Disabled *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 Apr]* 37
Servicemen's Social Protection Fund Set Up *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 21 Apr]* 37
Servicemen Polled on Social Issues, Leadership *[PRAVDA 18 Apr]* 37
Poll Shows 'Increasing Support' for Reforms *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
Cosmos-2185 Launched From Baykonur 29 Apr *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
Parameters of 'Resurs F-2' Satellite Noted *[ITAR-TASS]* 39

**Regional Affairs**

Yeltsin Continues Visit to Arkhangelsk, Plesetsk 39
  Cosmodrome Status Discussed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 29 Apr]* 39
  Discusses Cooperation With Kazakhstan *[Moscow TV]* 40
  Space Research Secrecy Lifted *[Moscow TV]* 40
  North Resources Noted *[Moscow TV]* 40
  Military Enterprises Considered *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 29 Apr]* 41
Background to Attempted Checheniya Coup Viewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 24 Apr]* 41
Newspaper Given Official Status, Name Change *[INTERFAX]* 44
Firearms Confiscated in Chechen Republic *[POSTFACTUM]* 44
Tatarstan's Ethnic Russians Want Treaty Signed *[INTERFAX]* 45
Support for Tatarstan's Sovereignty Falling *[POSTFACTUM]* 45
Krasnoyarsk Plutonium Production To Cease *[IZVESTIYA 18 Apr]* 45

Krasnoyarsk Wants To Reuse Former Radar Site *[IZVESTIYA 22 Apr]* ..... 45
Tyumen Oblast Stops Payments to Federal Budget *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 21 Apr]* ..... 46

## UKRAINE

### International Affairs

Kravchuk on U.S. 'Constructive Line' *[INTERFAX]* ..... 47
Kravchuk Views Talks on Black Sea Fleet *[INTERFAX]* ..... 47
Republic Reportedly to Supply Iran With Scuds *[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 27 Apr]* ..... 47
Iran, Azerbaijan To Join Gas Pipeline Project *[Kiev International]* ..... 47
Economic Problems Blamed on Russian Cabinet *[INTERFAX]* ..... 48
Servicmen in Other Republics To Return Home *[Kiev International]* ..... 48
International Symposium on Human Rights Begins *[Kiev International]* ..... 49

### National Affairs

Supreme Soviet Law Grants Autonomy to Crimea *[ITAR-TASS]* ..... 49
Crimean Russians Support CIS Control of Fleet *[Radio Rossii]* ..... 49
Feodosiya City Denies Plan to Join Ukraine *[UKRINFORM]* ..... 49
Party Issues Statement on Krasnodon Cossacks *[MOLOD UKRAYINY 23 Apr]* ..... 49
Kravchuk Creates Cultural Development Fund *[ITAR-TASS]* ..... 50

## WESTERN REGION

### Byelarus

Defense Minister on Army, Weapons Withdrawal *[Moscow TV]* ..... 51
Government Proposes Anticrisis Program *[IZVESTIYA 29 Apr]* ..... 51
New Currency To Begin Circulation 1 Jun *[INTERFAX]* ..... 51
Country on 'Brink of Ecological Disaster' *[ITAR-TASS]* ..... 52
Oblast Underfunded for Chernobyl Aftermath Work *[Moscow TV]* ..... 52

### Moldova

Dniester Region Denies Resumption of Negotiations *[INTERFAX]* ..... 52
Businessmen Say Industrial Enterprises Bankrupt *[IZVESTIYA 28 Apr]* ..... 52
Supreme Security Council Urges Privatization *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* ..... 53
Introduction of Moldovan Currency Ready *[ITAR-TASS]* ..... 53
Party Finds CIS Membership 'Problematic' *[Moscow Radio]* ..... 53
Army Facing Problems Due to 'Vague Status' *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 24 Apr]* ..... 53
Diplomatic Relations Established With Germany *[Berlin ADN]* ..... 54

## CENTRAL ASIA

### Kazakhstan

Turkish Prime Minister on Official Visit ..... 55
    Turkic Republics Summit Discussed *[Ankara ANATOLIA]* ..... 55
    Negotiations Have 'Concrete Character' *[INTERFAX]* ..... 55
    Demirel Cited at News Conference *[Ankara TV]* ..... 55
    Embassy Opened in Alma-Ata *[Ankara ANATOLIA]* ..... 56
    Demirel Notes 'Responsibility' *[Ankara ANATOLIA]* ..... 56
    Nazarbayev, Demirel Visit Baykonur *[ITAR-TASS]* ..... 57
Nazarbayev Decree Raises Wages, Regulates Prices *[Moscow Radio]* ..... 57
Denationalization, Privatization Decree Issued *[INTERFAX]* ..... 57
Nazarbayev Confirms Auto Deal With Italy *[INTERFAX]* ..... 57

### Kyrgyzstan

Further on Turkish Prime Minister's Visit ..... 57
  Joint Communique Issued *[Ankara TV]* ..... 57
  Unity of Turkic Peoples Stressed *[INTERFAX]* ..... 58
Situation in Uzgen 'Heating Up Again' *[IZVESTIYA 29 Apr]* ..... 58

### Tajikistan

Opposing Rallies in Dushanbe Continue ..... 58
  TV Center Blockaded *[Moscow TV]* ..... 58
  Yeltsin Asked To Resign *[Moscow TV]* ..... 59
  Party Demands Nabiyev's Resignation *[INTERFAX]* ..... 59
  Parliament Discusses 'Critical Situation' *[INTERFAX]* ..... 59
  Rallies 'Proceeding Peacefully' *[Moscow Radio]* ..... 59

### Turkmenistan

President Announces Plans for Own Army *[Radio Rossii]* ..... 60
Turkmen-Iranian Border Procedure Simplified *[Moscow Radio]* ..... 60
Refugees Return to Afghanistan; Fear Repression *[ITAR-TASS]* ..... 60
Turkey To Broadcast TV Programs To Turkmenistan *[ITAR-TASS]* ..... 60
Interior Ministry Confiscates Independent Journal *[POSTFACTUM]* ..... 60

## CAUCASUS

### Armenia

Second 'Massive Attack' in Month Reported *[Yerevan Radio]* ..... 61
Defense Ministry Meeting on Border Situation *[Yerevan Radio]* ..... 61
CSCE Delegation Meets With Araktsyan *[ARMENPRES]* ..... 61
Parliament Rejects President's Economic Program *[INTERFAX]* ..... 62
State Minister Calls Parliament 'Invalid' *[INTERFAX]* ..... 62
'Parliamentary Crisis' Said To Begin *[POSTFACTUM]* ..... 62
Parliament Debates Quorum, To Reconvene 4 May *[Yerevan Radio]* ..... 63
Country Allegedly on Verge of 'Collapse' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA]* ..... 64

### Azerbaijan

Footage of Alleged Chemical Weapons Broadcast *[Russian TV]* ..... 65
Roundup of Hostilities in Nagarno-Karabakh Area *[INTERFAX]* ..... 65
Officials Comment on Regiment's Complaints *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 28 Apr]* ..... 65
Parliament Abolishes CIS Baku Garrison *[Moscow TV]* ..... 66
'No Results' in Talks on Nakhichevan Electricity *[Radio Rossii]* ..... 67
Mamedov Confident of Victory in Presidential Race *[INTERFAX]* ..... 67
Health Cooperation Protocol Signed With Turkey *[Ankara Radio]* ..... 67

### Georgia

Russian Troops' Withdrawal Welcomed in Georgia *[ITAR-TASS]* ..... 67
S. Ossetia Demands End of Troops' Replacement *[INTERFAX]* ..... 67
Militants Block Routes Into South Ossetia *[Tbilisi Radio]* ..... 68
Mountain Peoples Group Discusses S. Ossetia *[Moscow TV]* ..... 68
Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Created *[SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA 16 Apr]* ..... 68
Human Rights, Social Protection Fund Formed *[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA 21 Apr]* ..... 68
Government To Introduce Currency Alongside Ruble *[POSTFACTUM]* ..... 69
Republic Contributes $72 Million to IMF *[IZVESTIYA 21 Apr]* ..... 69
Diplomatic Relations With Cuba 'New Landmark' *[SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA 21 Apr]* ..... 69

## BALTIC STATES

### Estonia

Russia Says Troops Could Withdraw by 1999 *[BALTFAX]* ............ 70
Russians in Northeast Seek To Avert Tension *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 25 Apr]* ............ 70
Majority in Navy Want To Leave Republic *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 24 Apr]* ............ 71
Figures Show Drop in Oil Consumption *[POSTFACTUM]* ............ 71
Government Accused of Human Rights Violations *[BALTFAX]* ............ 71

### Latvia

Israeli Defense Minister Arens Arrives *[Riga Radio]* ............ 71
  Holds Exchanges With Deputies *[Riga Radio]* ............ 71
  Holds News Conference *[Riga Radio]* ............ 72
Official Dissatisified With Withdrawal Conditions *[BALTFAX]* ............ 72
Agreement Reached With Russia on Customs Posts *[Riga Radio]* ............ 72
Referendum on Citizenship Evokes Mixed Reception *[PRAVDA 28 Apr]* ............ 73
Los Angeles Consul's Dismissal Approved *[BALTFAX]* ............ 73

### Lithuania

Minister Signs Agreement to Join IMF *[ITAR-TASS]* ............ 73
Russian Military Flights Violate Sovereignty *[Vilnius Radio]* ............ 73
Landsbergis Protests Russian Troop Arrivals *[BALTFAX]* ............ 74
Russian Delegation Postpones Visit to 12-14 May *[BALTFAX]* ............ 74
Supreme Council Adopts Presidency Referendum *[IZVESTIYA 29 Apr]* ............ 74
Prime Minister Signs New Reduction Directive *[BALTFAX]* ............ 74

## Nuclear Weapons Remain in Byelarus

Byelarus Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich "sanctioned" the transportation of tactical missiles which were "on alert and equipped with nuclear warheads" to Russia, but reports of the "total withdrawal" of weapons from the republic are premature. INTERFAX reports the Byelarus Ministry of Defense and the headquarters of the military district claim that the "remnants of the tactical nuclear weapons taken off alert will leave the republic only in the first half of May." However, "high ranking" Defense Ministry representatives "assure" that Byelarus will "totally fulfill its obligations by June 1."

## Black Sea Fleet Talks

Moscow Radio reports that the Black Sea Fleet talks taking place between Ukraine and Russia in Odessa "are taking place in an atmosphere of strict secrecy." Journalists were allowed "only three protocol minutes in order to film the moment when the announcement was made on the start of these talks." Yuriy Yarov, the Russian delegation head, said "A normal atmosphere of mutual understanding dominates the current talks," according to INTERFAX. Vasyl Durdynets stated that Ukraine does not object to "the presence of two Commonwealth naval admirals among the Russian participants", since they have the "status of non-voting experts." Kiev Radio interviews a Ukrainian official, Dmytro Pavlychko, chairman of the Ukrainian Foreign Policy Council, as saying the talks "will be difficult; very very difficult, until the Russian side begins to respect Ukraine and to see Ukraine as a sovereign state with equal rights."

## Kravchuk on Relations With U.S.

INTERFAX reports on a news conference given by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk who stated "the USA 'had taken a constructive line vis-a-vis Ukraine, though earlier its course was different and the republic was seen as being in the orbit of Russian foreign policy.'" "This radical change is explained by the fact that Ukraine wants to become both an independent and democratic state. Another factor is the big Ukrainian community in the USA."

## Break With Cuba Not in Russian Interests

Officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs say "a complete break in economic relations with Cuba runs counter to Russia's interests," INTERFAX reports. The comments were made in connection with a U.S. bill proposing "a number of measures aimed at Cuba's isolation." Officials expressed "surprise" at the U.S. position, with one "high-standing" diplomat noting that Russian relations with Cuba are subject to "deep changes," so "claims" in this regard were "ultimately groundless."

## Lithuania Joins IMF

Lithuania has become "the first former Soviet republic to join the IMF," according to ITAR-TASS, after Vytenis Aleskaitis, minister of international economic relations, added his signature to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) articles of agreement. Lithuania's initial quota is put at "some $95 million" and brings the membership of the IMF up to 157 countries.

## Ukraine Reportedly To Supply Iran With Arms

London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI cites "diplomatic sources" who said, "Ukraine is to supply Iran with Scud-B surface-to-surface missiles and other military equipment in return for Iran's supplying it with natural gas.... "

## Red Mercury Sales Reported

The "24" newspaper "maintains" red mercury, used in the manufacture of nuclear weapons, is "being leaked from Russia" through "fake foreign companies," ITAR-TASS reports. The publication names "firms, unregistered in reference books" from Liechtenstein, Britain, and the United States as buyers of the red mercury the price of which varies on the world market "from 340,000 to 365,000 dollars per kilo." Such deals are "illegal...done in circumvention of the IAEA" and General Prosecutor Valentin Stepankov, alerted by Russian people's deputies, believes a "deep, comprehensive examination is necessary."

### Byelarus Not Yet Free of All Nuclear Weapons

*OW2904191092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1812 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Wednesday [29 April] the Byelarus military experts began dismantling of some tactical missiles launchers reconstructing them for peaceful usage. The day before the Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich sanctioned shipping of a railway platform with tactical missiles, which were on alert and equipped with nuclear warheads, from the Byelarus territory to Russia for their destruction. The leading expert of the Byelarus Government on military issues Valeriy Drako told "IF" [INTERFAX].

He attributes the information spread by mass media on total withdrawal of tactical weapons from the republic to their wish to see Byelarus a non-nuclear state as soon as possible. But the Ministry of Defense and the headquarters of the Byelarus military district told "IF" that the remnants of the tactical nuclear weapons taken off alert will leave the republic only in the first half of May. The high ranking representatives of the Defense Ministry assure that Byelarus will totally fulfil its obligations by June 1 this year.

### Newspaper Says Red Mercury Being Sold Abroad

*LD2904162492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1535 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] Moscow April 29 TASS—Through fake foreign companies red mercury, used to produce nuclear weapons, is being leaked from Russia, the 24 newspaper maintains.

In the material, presented by it as the main sensation of its 9th issue, this recently-launched international newspaper maintains that such deals are illegal or at least doubtful, because they are done in circumvention of the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency].

"Russia will reap a loud scandal, strengthening fears of the Western civilization that everything is possible here," the newspaper writes.

In confirmation, the publication names buyers of red mercury—"firms, unregistered in reference books, from Liechtenstein "Massandro Ag", "Simako" from the United States and a dwarfish firm from Britain "Network" with a charter capital of 100 pounds sterling."

According to the newspaper the Masandro AG company has repeatedly conducted deals on spot deliveries to it of red mercury in the volume of 300 kilograms. Its price on the world market varies from 340,000 to 365,000 dollars per kilo.

"Currently most active in seeking red mercury is U.S. entrepreneur John Ross (former Soviet citizen, who set up the Lets-Ross joint venture), representative of a limited-liability society "Data Bank for Food" from Hungary Henry Kazaryan, and a group of French entrepreneurs, acting with the mediation of the Esti Bank (Tallinn).

A group of Russian people's deputies, the newspaper reports, sent data on the trade in Red Mercury to General Prosecutor Valentin Stepankov. According to them, he said that "the issue is serious and a deep, comprehensive examination is necessary".

In 1990-1991 control over attempts to export red mercury were monitored by the department for strategic intelligence of the GRU (Russian Army Intelligence Service) and the 6th Department of the KGB.

Currently, monopoly on all operations with this product belongs to a little-known concern from Yekaterinburg "Promekologiya," which received a corresponding license from Russian authorities, the newspaper said.

The newspaper called on Russian authorities to establish close stringent control over the production of red mercury and its export from Russia. Otherwise, "a considerable financial damage and a serious political scandal is possible," it warned.

### Republics Want U.S. To Monitor Arms Transfers

*LD2904014792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0000 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] Ukrainian President Kravchuk leaves for the United States today. AFP reports that he told a news conference that the former USSR's four nuclear Republics—Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Byelarus—intend to sign a protocol opening the path for ratification of the Soviet-U.S. agreement on reducing strategic weapons.

Oleg Belorus, Ukrainian ambassador to the United States, reported earlier that Ukraine, Byelarus, and Kazakhstan agreed in principle upon transferring their nuclear weapons to Russia. However, they insist on this process being monitored by other CIS states, as well as by West European countries and even the United States.

### Charges of Arms Treaty Noncompliance Examined

*MK2904180092 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 3*

[Mikhail Shchipanov article under "Our Commentary" rubric: "For the Sins of the Union]

[Text] Indeed, the sins of the defunct Union are increasingly hounding Russia, which is the legal successor of the collapsed state. On this occasion the "new" Kremlin is being unobtrusively accused of the juggling and maneuvering of the already fading Gorbachev epoch. A joke's a joke, but a group of six senators—of a conservative persuasion, one must assume—has sent President Bush a wagonload of compromising material against Moscow. "The American six" asserts, in particular, that the Union authorities did not completely destroy their stock of SS-20 and SS-23 medium-range missiles. Quite the reverse, they concealed some of the medium-range missiles, and having concealed them they put a few missiles aside "for a rainy day."

Accusations that are both serious and political, so to speak. Particularly now, when the pans of the scales on which people constantly want to measure the assistance we need will in no way finally come to rest. And, indeed, the sins are of the Union Communist type, but certain secret missiles—if the senators are to be believed—remain concealed on the territory of democratic Russia. Well I do declare—a fine argument in the hand of the isolationists, who acquire particular force in the leap years of the presidential elections: Whom do you wish to help, they say, wresting a spare dollar from the unfortunates in America itself? How much to feed the Soviets...

And then precisely following suit came a completely official document released from the bowels of the White House. The report, which, it is maintained, President Reagan had stored in his own office since December, is also replete with accusations leveled at the "departed" Union in the area of compliance with disarmament treaties. Here we have both the transfer of SS-23 missiles to former East European allies, and noncompliance with articles of the ABM Treaty—which, by the way, the Americans are not thinking how to discard.

However, the official charges are all as well known as a matching set, are not indisputable, and are somewhat the worse for age. But something else is surprising. Just how does a report prepared while Gorbachev was still in power come into the public domain only now? If it is all a matter of tactics on Bush's part, then it turns out that the President prefers "to cut the tail into little pieces" ["rezat khvost po kuskam"], which hardly represents the best policy in the modern world. It is more likely that the report was needed now precisely in order to demonstrate the vigilance worthy of a president: That is, no senators are capable of caring more about national security than the head of the White House himself. In principle the ritual of the campaign battle demands a show of definite toughness and persistence. Only anything the President says can be directed against his efforts "to fill in the Bering Strait." Russian-American trust is a fragile thing.

## CIS, U.S. Help Sought in Chemical Destruction

*PM2804140192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 7*

[Article by Major General (Retired) Vladimir Belous, expert on chemical weapons, and Rostislav Sergeyev, chairman of the Foreign Policy Association's Environmental Safety Council: "Destroying the Silent Death Cleverly, Without Delay"]

[Text] The statement by Russian President B.N. Yeltsin 29 January this year, along with a reaffirmation of adherence to the signed Soviet-U.S. agreement on the destruction and nonproduction of chemical weapons contains a highly perplexing conclusion about the need to amend the previously agreed timetable for the destruction of these weapons. What is going on? What lies behind this forced admission?

As is well known, during the Wyoming meeting between the two countries' foreign ministers in the fall of 1989 the sides signed a memorandum on their stockpiles of chemical agents, storage sites, and production facilities. In the following year an agreement was signed containing specific pledges by the sides and a timetable specifying a relatively tight schedule for the destruction of chemical weapons. Thus both sides should embark on destroying chemical weapons not later than 31 December 1992, by the year 2000 no less than 50 percent of stocks should have been destroyed, and by the end of 2002 Russia and the United States should each have no more than 5,000 tonnes of chemical agents left. If a convention is signed, Russia—along with all the other countries—will completely destroy its chemical agents and give up these mass destruction weapons forever.

Examining the reasons for Russia's reluctance to carry out the schedule for the destruction of chemical agents, we need above all to point to the fact that when the agreement was signed there was in existence a unified state—the USSR—which at the time had sufficient financial and economic potential, the necessary production capacity, and a high level of scientific and technical potential. Those who participated in preparing the agreement proceeded on this basis when setting the timetable for the weapons' destruction. But the emergence of sovereign republics shortly after, the collapse of the Soviet Union, the sharp slump in industrial production, and the start of economic reform sharply exacerbated the problem....

In the opinion of independent experts, the plant built in the Chapayevsk region for the experimental development of technologies involved in chemical weapons destruction has ensured a high degree of efficiency and environmental safety. But a failure to take account of purely psychological factors and an inability to conduct preparatory explanatory work among the population of adjacent areas led to massive protests. As a result, the plant was converted into a center to train those involved in chemical weapons elimination. Until recently no site had been picked for the construction of a new plant, and you get the impression that certain officials cannot decide to take responsibility and make their choice.

Currently this "all-Union" task is having to be decided by Russia alone, which is already in a very complex economic position.

Historically, it is a fact that all chemical weapons, storage facilities, and production sites are located in Russia. The other former USSR republics have now suggested that Russia resolve everything, and the expense will be considerable. Thus, according to expert estimates, the cost of all the work to destroy chemical weapons was assessed at 5.4 billion rubles [R] at the time when the agreement was signed, but now stands at R28-30 billion in early 1992 prices. Would it not be sensible to share this burden among the Commonwealth members? We think that during a discussion of military issues with the other CIS states the Russian delegation should submit for examination and resolution the problem of their fair participation in financing the destruction of chemical weapons.

The Soviet-U.S. agreement highlights two fundamental points: First, in the destruction of chemical agents, technologies should be used to ensure that the end product is not a chemical agent itself and cannot be used as a starting point for the synthesis of new toxic compounds. Second, in the process of eliminating chemical agents there should be inbuilt environmental safety guarantees. In particular, it is forbidden to incinerate chemical agents in the open air, to bury them in the ground, or to dump them at sea.

Apart from postponing the timetable for the destruction of chemical weapons stocks, we will have to reach agreement with the Americans on not destroying our factories which previously produced chemical weapons. The fact is that these production facilities, like most defense complex enterprises, are equipped with modern technology and have a developed infrastructure and a high scientific and technical potential. But the most important point is that these plants have already been converted to civil chemical production—something that the Russian national economy greatly needs.

We agree to international expert verification with on-site inspections at former chemical weapons production facilities on the principle of "any time, any place." But in the current very complex economic situation we can hardly afford the luxury of destroying plants that cost billions of rubles in total.

This position of Russia's is all the more justifiable because the United States has in recent years organized production of components for so-called binary chemical weapons, which separately contain two relatively harmless chemical compounds. The features of binary weapons make it much harder to monitor their production, because the initial components are manufactured at civilian chemical plants and can be used, for instance, as plant protection agents or in pharmaceuticals. These are essentially chemical agents with a dual role—civil and military.

The Soviet delegation at the talks was unable to obtain a satisfactory answer from the U.S side to the proposals to introduce a system for monitoring this U.S. military chemical technology "know-how." The U.S. representatives refuse to divulge details of the components of binary weapons, hiding behind commercial secrecy—which essentially makes their production unverifiable. Incidentally, the problem of verifying the production and destruction of binary weapons could be examined during work on the convention, currently under way in Geneva.

What is the current state of play with regard to the destruction of chemical weapons in Russia? How are the scientific, technical, and organizational issues connected with this problem being resolved? These problems were meaningfully discussed during hearings at the Foreign Policy Association. Eminent chemists, diplomats who had taken part in the Soviet-U.S. talks, representatives of the Russian Defense Affairs Committee, experts from the Directorate of the Chief of Chemical Troops, and representatives of the public were invited to the session.

The representatives from the Directorate of the Chief of Chemical Troops explained that the elaborated draft state program is based on a comprehensive approach: Chemical agents which can be salvaged should be reprocessed, those which cannot should be destroyed. In other words, not everything can be salvaged and not everything need be destroyed.

An example of effective salvage work is the plan to obtain the high-purity arsenic needed to manufacture a highly promising semiconductor material—gallium arsenide. This was reported by IZVESTIYA No. 70 this year.

The world community is having to face up the task of putting a stop once and for all to the chemical arms race and destroying all stockpiles of chemical agents under strict international control. Mankind simply has no sensible alternative.

## Delays in Chemical Weapon Disarmament Viewed

*PM2804131792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 7*

[Article by Viktor Litovkin: "Soviet Union Failed To Fulfill Chemical Disarmament Agreement. Russia Takes Over Its Obligations. Yeltsin's Men Seek Agreement in United States and at Home"]

[Text] The destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles on our country's territory should begin before 31 December 1992. But it is already clear that, for a number of reasons, the agreement signed between the USSR and the United States will not be fulfilled on schedule. Russian President Boris Yeltsin has issued a decree setting up a Committee on the Convention [konventsialnyy] Problems of Chemical and Biological Weapons. Academician Anatoliy Kuntsevich has been appointed its chairman.

Our committee's task, the academician told IZVESTIYA's correspondent, is to implement internal presidential verification of the observance of the convention obligations which the Union and Russia—as its successor—undertook, and to take part in multilateral and bilateral forms of international verification. The main point is to actually get down to eliminating chemical weapons stockpiles and creating the scientific, technical, and material base to that end.

There are around 40,000 tonnes of stocks of chemical agents in our country. They are all on Russian territory. And although production of them ended back in 1987 and preparations for their destruction began even earlier, little has yet been done.

Why? The former Union Supreme Soviet and central government were unable to ratify the agreement between the USSR and the United States, nor did they ratify the state program for the destruction of chemical weapons—the necessary funds were not allocated. Even today we do not yet have any legal documents obliging state organs to launch this work.

According to Academician Kuntsevich, the committee set up by the president is currently drawing up a strategy for carrying out the international obligations we have undertaken. What is its aim? To draw up a number of governmental documents which would make it possible to create a material and technical basis for chemical disarmament and begin the elimination of such weapons.

There is already one chemical weapons destruction installation in the country. It is sited near Chapayevsk in Samara Oblast. The committee chairman—and his words are backed up by foreign experts—claims that this plant meets all the demands of technology and environmental and medical safety, and is located a considerable distance away from major population centers. The installation was to have helped the country develop the technology for destroying chemical agents. But, owing to protests from the oblast population and leadership, the 100 million rubles [R] invested in setting up the plant have been wasted. Chapayevsk has not started operations.

Today, Anatoliy Kuntsevich believes, we need to first provide social guarantees for the population of those oblasts and rayons where chemical disarmament installations will be built, allocate additional funds to develop the infrastructure, set up a social and consumer sector, build schools, hospitals, and other buildings, hold talks with people, convince them of the absolute safety of the technologies under development, and only then start work.

Of course, the academician believes that people working at and living alongside installations for the destruction and salvage of chemical weapons should have prior guarantees from the president or the government that they will receive higher wages and other material and social benefits, to render their participation in solving the convention problems advantageous and comprehensively safeguarded.

It is planned to spend 30 percent of the entire sum allocated to chemical disarmament—as well as virtually all the foreign investment which the state hopes to receive for this purpose—on this. Academician Kuntsevich believes that the chemical agents destruction program will cost Russia a total of R100 billion at current prices.

It is planned to build several chemical agent destruction installations on Russian territory, but the committee is not saying where. Their view is: First we will obtain the documentation guaranteeing benefits, hold talks with people, obtain their agreement, and only then can we name specific rayons or oblasts.

The program and timetable for destroying or processing chemical agents will directly depend on the results of domestic talks, as will even the committee's strategy, as will the choice of methods for salvaging chemical weapons and the ultimate expenditure involved.

Destroying chemical agents is an expensive process. Particularly at the initial stage. But unique technologies have already been developed which make it possible to obtain the maximum economic benefit from, for instance, turning lewisite into high-quality arsenic, or organophosphorus compounds into safe liquids suited to the technical processing of timber or capable of enhancing the quality of construction materials, concrete...And it would not be necessary to build huge and expensive boilers to incinerate neutralized chemical agents, nor would there be any excessive impact on the atmosphere....

Incidentally, the Americans too have already realized that it is uneconomical to incinerate chemical agents.

Academician Kuntsevich said that scientists have clearly calculated that the spending on chemical disarmament could be recouped—if not completely, at least substantially. They will lay the foundation for the development of scientific research work and new technological achievements in developing the chemical industry.

In the academician's opinion, the "Gordian knot" of legal, financial, social, and psychological problems involved in chemical disarmament should be cut by Russia no later than May this year, on the eve of President Yeltsin's visit to the United States. Incidentally, on 27 April a delegation from the Committee on Convention Problems is to fly to the United States to hold talks on elaborating joint programs to destroy chemical agents in our country.

"The fate of major scientific and production programs, and Russia's prestige in the international arena," Anatoliy Demyanovich Kuntsevich said, "now depend on our population's readiness to cooperate with our committee."

If we are successful in winning people's agreement to start work on destroying chemical agents, such work could only begin at best in mid-1993. But their agreement is the only way out of the chemical disarmament impasse.

## Biological Weapons Conversion Considered

*PM2804103992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 1*

[Article by Viktor Litovkin: "Yeltsin Bans Work on Bacteriological Weapons. This Means: Work Was Under Way, And We Were Deceived"]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin has issued a decree "On Ensuring the Implementation of International Pledges in the Sphere of Biological Weapons." It bans the development and implementation of biological programs in violation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.

Let us note: The presidential decree was published exactly 20 years after our country signed the convention prohibiting the development of these dreadful weapons. The USSR ratified it in 1975. But throughout this period we have not had a single legal document regulating and demarcating such a subtle and delicate sphere as bacteriological research.

Incidentally, the Americans adopted a law stating what work can be carried out with a view to providing defense against these weapons, including research involving highly dangerous microorganisms, toxins, and other components, allowing the use of mockups of munitions and spray devices, and stating categorically what was not allowed. That is, they strictly defined the amount of authorized activity. We had no such law. President Yeltsin's decree is the first step in this area.

Admittedly, so Russian military experts assert, we have no problems with destroying bacteriological weapons since there are no stockpiles of these weapons in Russia, although we have carried out research and experimental-design work on them. We tested them in laboratories and even, in very diluted doses, at a special test site which has now been shut down and handed over to the national economy after the appropriate control inspections. Scientists claim that it is quite safe. The increase in the wild animal population living on its territory is evidence of this. Needless to say, that argument needs careful checking.

Yes, the task of effective supervision [kontrol] of the scientific centers where work on bacteriological weapons was carried out does exist. It must be performed by the Committee on Convention Problems of Chemical and Bacteriological Weapons set up by Boris Yeltsin's decree.

This committee's senior personnel think that verification of the implementation of the convention can be not only Russian but also international—in the form of mixed groups. Both on a bilateral basis—Russian-U.S. or Russian-British groups, for instance—and on a multilateral basis. Naturally, this must be reciprocal verification.

In order for this to occur our specialists are proposing unprecedented steps to promote openness, confidence-building, and the broadening of international cooperation that were not even mentioned in the 1972 Convention. They also consider these measures an element in the planet's global security. Our scientists are willing to invite foreign experts to what were until recently highly secret research centers in Kirov, Yekaterinburg, and Sergiyev Posad working for the military. They are proposing to carry out joint evaluation of the programs and to formulate a unified policy for switching them to a peaceful footing.

The point is that biological conversion does not necessitate major expenditure. Strains, serums, vaccines, and other output developed previously can with comparative ease become the basis of new medical preparations. The money spent on biological weapons research will not have been wasted, it will start to work for people.

Such programs already exist. The Yekaterinburg center's buildings and laboratories are being transferred to medicine production. It is already ready to produce medicine. A special program is also being formulated for the institute at Sergiyev Posad, which develops vaccines that are of great interest to foreign countries. Our specialists claim that during the Gulf war the Americans were studying the possibility of buying these vaccines because of their great effectiveness. Scientists at the center in Kirov are also working successfully on conversion and are providing their city with great assistance in creating its agro-industrial complex.

Experts from the Committee for Convention Problems consider that these institutes must in time be removed from the tutelage of the military. The highly professional scientific forces created there and their experience are a federal asset and must switch entirely to work in the national economy. Only they must be helped to set up a unified science and production complex that will be able to fully recoup its costs and bring the state a return.

Our "secret" scientists' developments may reach the international market, displacing traditional foreign participants and thus earn hard currency for Russia.

## Weapons Security 'Outweighs All Ambition'

*PM2804123792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Apr 92 p 2*

[Interview with Doctor of Mathematical Physics Radiy Ilkayev by Vladimir Gubarev in Arzamas-16; date not given: "Radiy Ilkayev: 'Portrait of a Nuclear Complex'—Trusting Those Who Create Atomic Weapons"—first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Arzamas-16—A pretty hard-hitting discussion took place between the president of Russia and scientists when he visited the Federal Atomic Center at Arzamas-16. This primarily revolved around the incompetence of certain Russian leaders who constantly talk about nuclear disarmament when they sometimes have only a very confused and distorted idea about nuclear weapons. They should not discuss them: This sphere, both here and in the West, receives top security classification and represents the most important state secret. It would be naive to think that the veil of secrecy will be lifted in the near future—these weapons are too dangerous and the demand for their nonproliferation is the keystone of relations between us and the Americans. That's the way it was and is, and, judging by all accounts, this principle will be religiously observed in the next few years, regardless of whether this pleases some people or not—nuclear weapons security outweighs all ambition.

Boris Yeltsin agreed that he needed an adviser on the nuclear complex. Doctor of Mathematical Physics Radiy Ilkayev was among the first to be recommended at Arzamas-16. It was he who briefed the president on the institute and acted as a kind of "guide" around the museum where the nuclear weapons created at Arzamas-16 throughout the muclear age are on display.

But we hardly touched upon history during our talk.

[Gubarev] What are nuclear weapons today? What do you think about them as a designer, as someone who creates them with his own hands? What value do they represent today?

[Ilkayev] From the philosophical standpoint?

[Gubarev] In reality...In general terms, how do people who have worked with them for many years, if not their whole life, regard them....

[Ilkayev] Our attitude to them is complex and, I would say, deep-seated. As you know full well, we are state personnel, we have always tackled state tasks, and this attitude has therefore left its mark. It constitutes our philosophy.

[Gubarev] And the scale of thinking is such?

[Ilkayev] Of course. We have a perfectly well-defined philosophy, because in principle it is impossible to be engaged with such awesome artifacts representing colossal potential danger and not have an appropriate philosophy. First-class, decent specialists cannot work just because of the wages, the best living conditions, and so forth. It is essential to be convinced that our country—formerly the Soviet Union and now Russia—has a sound defense. That is unambiguous, since Russia as an integrated state will not exist without a sound defense. And we consider that it is impossible to defend such a huge country without nuclear weapons. That is why we engage in what is, in our view, the most important task for our state, for the people. We are ready to hear out a different viewpoint perfectly calmly, to consider it soberly, discuss it, and express our own opinion. But the state has naturally left its "mark" on us and will continue to do so.

[Gubarev] In my opinion, that is a very clear position.

[Ilkayev] I agree. Therefore we react, sometimes adversely, to the unprofessional statements which appear in the press. There exists a long chain made up of the state, the people, defense, the need for nuclear weapons, nuclear weapons production, tests, reduction, and so forth. In general, a pretty complex hierarchy, a kind of technological construct. And when one of its links or components, sometimes a very small one, is isolated from it quite arbitrarily and so-called "broad public discussion" starts up around it, this does not go down well with us—we would like a different approach.

[Gubarev] Perhaps it would be useful to illustrate with a specific example?

[Ilkayev] Let us take nuclear tests. Are they necessary or not, how many exactly, do they harm the environment, and to what extent? These problems certainly do need to be discussed, but preferably in the overall context. It has to be understood that stopping tests is a very cheap way of causing colossal damage to the nuclear defense complex. That being so, you must act in a normal way: The Supreme Soviet makes the decision that our nuclear weapons will be destroyed within 20 years, and stopping nuclear tests is the first step in that direction. Everything is then clear. Unfortunately, this kind of clarity is lacking today. On the one hand, we maintain that nuclear weapons are needed for defense, while, on the other hand, we stop tests. The lack of an internal [zamknutyy], comprehensive examination of the problem does not of course go down well with us and arouses protest. We know full well that deformation in one area necessarily spreads to the whole structure, in this case—to Russia's defense policy.

As for the weapons themselves, they undoubtedly represent a huge asset—above all vast knowledge has been accumulated in them, several generations of outstanding phycists, mathematicians, engineers, technologists, chemists, and so forth have worked on their creation. Particularly during the initial phase. A host of outstanding physicists have worked within the walls of our institute, even Lev Davidovich Landau was in effect our colleague. He did not actually work here, but he wrote reports on weapons topics which made a quite definite contribution to solving the problem of the atom. So nuclear weapons represent an intellectual and, of course, a material asset. It is perfectly understandable that we have used pretty large areas of Russian territory to create our complexes. It is impossible to restore them to their previous state by a stroke of the pen, irrespective of whether we have nuclear weapons or not in our country. The nuclear complexes are giant enterprises and represent vast material resources. The people have spent substantial sums on creating the nuclear industry.

What can I say as a developer of such weapons? It is clear that they are essential for deterrence, they maintain stability and relative peace in our world. Consequently, one of the priorities for a people which possesses nuclear weapons should be their security, that is to say, we must ensure zero probability of radioactive contamination.

The combination of fissile and explosive substances in a nuclear charge, bomb, or shell, in everything that we call a 'device', makes them potentially dangerous. We—designers, scientists, specialists, engineers,—should do what is necessary to ensure that the possessor of nuclear weapons, that is, you and I—the whole people—are not subject to even negligible risk and cannot themselves suffer from the weapons. Only then will they be able to discharge their role as a deterrent factor."

[Gubarev] Are you working on this?

[Ilkayev] And we will continue to do so! In my view, nuclear weapons will be retained, at least for the foreseeable future, and we should maintain them in a proper state.

[Gubarev] Talks are under way about nuclear terrorism, about the seizure of tactical weapons, and about their sale. How do you rate the danger?

[Ilkayev] We designers and specialists must constantly bear this in mind. We did little about this before, because we considered that the Soviet Union neither had nor would have terrorists. But the scientists and political scientists were mistaken. No one of course expected that the kind of situation which exists today would arise. And although the tactical weapons are being brought into Russia and security is apparently being enhanced, we should nevertheless take this new situation into account. And we are obliged to work out a kind of "protection against terrorism." Both organizational and technical measures are essential here.

[Gubarev] But the public is entitled to know the situation regarding nuclear weapons. We remember that the secrecy over the operation of nuclear power stations led to Chernobyl. In my view, public monitoring only helps physicists, strange though this may seem. It increases the degree of responsibility. And weapons and atomic power generation are, after all, two of a kind, they have a common history and the same parents, and, in the end, radioactivity poses the same danger to every living thing.

[Ilkayev] A very clear line must be observed—nuclear physics must not be allowed to be used to people's detriment. On the one hand, people should know as much as they can; while, on the other hand, nuclear weapons must not be allowed to be used as a means of terrorism, blackmail, or furthering imperial ambitions; they should also be made completely safe. Secrecy does undoubtedly hamper in some respects, but at the same time it does enable stability to be maintained. However, the most important thing is that you must trust the people who create the weapons—their competence and concern for the future of the world, their conscience and their honesty. The people have trusted us, they have believed in our ability not just to create such awesome weapons, but also to exercise control over them. In my view, we have never yet abused that trust.

## Samsonov Received by German Defense Minister

*PM2904135192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 3*

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Stepovik report: "On Working Visit"]

[Text] Bonn, 28 Apr—FRG Defense Minister Volker Ruehe met yesterday with Colonel General Viktor Samsonov, chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces General Staff, who has come to the Federal Republic on a working visit.

During the talks, an FRG Defense Ministry report disseminated here states, V. Ruehe appealed to the Commonwealth countries to accelerate the disarmament process. The republics of the former Soviet Union, he emphasized, should embark as soon as possible on realizing the Vienna agreements on conventional forces in Europe. The FRG defense minister voiced satisfaction in connection with the fact that the withdrawal of units of the Western Group of Forces from the territory of the eastern part of Germany is proceeding to plan.

The report points out that the chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces General Staff made a positive assessment of the state of relations among the Commonwealth states. He rated highly the role of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, which, he said, is making an important contribution to stabilizing the situation in Europe. At the same time V. Samsonov emphasized that he does not see any need at present for the CIS countries to join NATO.

## CSCE Experts Arrive in Baku, Yerevan

*PM2804152592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 4*

[Gennadiy Charodeyev report: "CSCE Experts Come to Baku and Yerevan"]

[Text] Leading groups of experts have come to Baku and Yerevan on the instructions of Jiri Dienstbier, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and chairman of the CSCE Foreign Ministers Council. They are to ascertain the situation on site and prepare conditions for sending to Nagorno-Karabakh a mission of CSCE observers whose mandate will be ratified at the end of April during a session of the CSCE Committee of Senior Officials in Helsinki.

This is not the first CSCE delegation to come to Azerbaijan and Armenia. Representatives of Sweden and Germany visited the capitals of these sovereign states and held a series of meetings at the Russian Foreign Ministry a few months ago.

IZVESTIYA's correspondent also learned that special missions or CSCE representative organs are to open shortly in Baku and Yerevan. The plan is for this prestigious international forum's observers to be housed on the Azerbaijan-Armenian border. Observers may have to be housed in Nagorno-Karabakh itself. However, during a conversation with IZVESTIYA's correspondent, a spokesman for the Azerbaijan political mission in Moscow said that "this is not on the agenda at the moment."

In turn, a spokesman for the Armenian political mission in Moscow thinks that the international observers should be where the hostilities are, that is, in Nagorno-Karabakh. He said that the insignificant clashes on the Armenian-Azerbaijan border between the opposing sides are only the consequence of the war in Nagorno-Karabakh. The Armenian spokesman believes that CSCE observers should strive to secure the main goal—a cease-fire.

The Azerbaijan spokesman in Moscow does not see any change in the views of his leadership in Baku as regards the arrival and housing of international observers. "All the talk saying that we are opposed to this is unfounded," he stressed. "As a full-fledged member of the pan-European process, Azerbaijan declares its willingness to assist any international peace mission to settle the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh."

Both spokesmen confirmed that the Nagorno-Karabakh international peace conference scheduled previously will be held in Minsk, most likely in June. The leading groups of experts who have come to Baku and Yerevan also vigorously discussed this important question.

## Mitterrand To Visit Baltic States 13-15 May

*OW2904214092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1830 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand is expected to visit Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia on May 13-15. He will be accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs Roland Dumas, Defense Minister Pierre Joxe, Minister of Industry and External Trade Dominique Straus-Kahn, and Minister of European Affairs Elisabeth Guigou.

Francois Mitterand is scheduled to arrive in Vilnus on May 13. On that day, he will lay wreaths to the tombs of the victims of January 1991 events in Vilnus. Then the French President will have a meeting with the head of the Lithuanian parliament Vitautas Landsbergis. In the evening, V. Landsbergis will host President Mitterand at an official dinner in his honor.

On May 14, the French President will meet with the republic's prime minister Gediminas Vagnorius after which he will make a speech at the plenary session of the Lithuanian parliament. The day will be crowned by the ceremony of signing cooperation agreement between the two countries. Following that, Francois Mitterrand will be offered a tour of Vilnus. The day will end with a reception in the French Embassy.

On May 14, the French President will arrive in Tallinn. He will meet with the head of the Estonian parliament Arnold Ruutel.

On May 15, Francois Mitterrand will be meeting with Estonia's Prime Minister Tat Vahi. After a brief press conference, the French president will be shown the sights of the city and leave Tallinn for Riga.

Later in the day, the French President will fly home from Riga.

## 'Educational Effect' Seen in IMF Membership

*PM2904130192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 1*

[Otto Latsis report: "Forty-Seven Years Late"]

[Text] The decision to admit our "one-sixth of the globe" to the IMF was adopted for the second time 27 April 1992. An agreement on the USSR's participation in the IMF was first signed in the American city of Bretton Woods in 1944, but the Soviet side failed to ratify it within the prescribed deadline, which expired in 1945. Stalin was afraid of something, but nobody ever really explained what exactly. Now all the former USSR republics are joining the fund autonomously. Thus the IMF has virtually completed its transformation into a universal specialized UN organization embracing all countries of the world, which was the intention from the start.

Our road to this decision was long and tortuous. I remember well how back in the late seventies the Institute of the Economics of the World Socialist System sent to the relevant authorities memorandums marked "secret" detailing Hungary's proposal: that the group of socialist countries together with the USSR join the IMF collectively. The response "from the top" to the attempts to soberly evaluate the fund's possibilities was irritated remarks or silence. In the end Hungary joined without us in 1982, spurred by the difficult situation in which the country had been placed by the unexpected violation of Soviet commitments on oil deliveries. By then others among our allies were already members of the IMF: Vietnam, Poland, and Romania.

What does this decision signify for us today? I think that the chance to receive credit from the IMF, a highly topical issue right now, is not the most important aspect of the event which has taken place. Russia's increased prestige in the eyes of the world community, which will improve our position in relations with all foreign partners, is far more significant. Among the most acute current needs, let us note the consent by our creditors to reschedule most of the repayments due in 1992 for credit received in past years—the very possibility of such a rescheduling is closely linked with the IMF's recognition of the firmness of our intentions regarding reforms. Our entry into the IMF is also directly linked with the possibility of participating in projects financed by the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development, which will strengthen our foreign trade position.

Bu. to me, none of this is the most important point. Entry into the IMF represents a resolute step toward breaking out of the shell of isolation in which we had incarcerated ourselves. In isolation from the rest of the world, a full life-support system based on the lowest level of requirements and output quality, with little need of the rest of the world, and poorly adapted to cooperation with it was created within the framework of the USSR, and partly within the framework of CEMA. Something like medieval Japan, which neither allowed foreign ships in nor allowed its own ships out. As we tried at the same time to compete on equal terms with the West in the military sphere, this autarkic system soon gave way under the strain and collapsed, and we discovered that we simply didn't know how to live and work in the system to which the whole world was accustomed.

The IMF's standard demands, reflected in the well known Russian Government memorandum, are useful to us as clear guidelines for beginners. For example, they help us to grasp that any commodity is worth precisely as much as the consumer will pay for it—no more, no less. To understand that state subsidies to a chronically unprofitable (at market prices) enterprise are paid at the expense of other enterprises, and thus are a form of exploitation of those who work well by those who work badly. The educational effect of IMF membership is a most important thing for us today, and it would be very good if we could use it to the full. The sooner we do this, the sooner the time will come when not only will the IMF influence our development, but also we, as the holder of a big quota, will influence the economic development of the whole world through the IMF.

## Black Sea Fleet

### Talks on Black Sea Fleet Begin in Odessa

#### Continue in 'Strict Secrecy'

*LD2904192492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1413 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] [Announcer] Let's listen to Sergey Fateyev who probably knows the details about what has taken place in those two hours [of Russian-Ukrainian talks in Odessa]. We are listening.

[Fateyev] You know it is two hours and 13 minutes since the talks began, but unfortunately I cannot say anything about the details of the talks themselves since they are taking place behind closed doors. We—journalists and press covering the talks—were allowed into the house of receptions on the shore of the Black Sea on Frantsuzskiy [French] Boulevard for only three protocol minutes in order to film the moment when the announcement was made on the start of these talks.

[Announcer] And did nobody leave, Serezha?

[Fateyev] No, nobody left. More than that, they are not even letting us near that [words indistinct]. The talks are taking place in an atmosphere of strict secrecy. I would explain this by the fact...by the situation that has taken shape around the talks. You see, they reckoned that they would start this morning, that the delegations would arrive earlier, have a rest, go through the appropriate preparations, and that the experts would meet each other, perhaps, before the talks, so that these talks would subsequently be more constructive and so-to-speak more productive. Unfortunately, this did not happen. The thing is that the Ukrainian delegation arrived in Odessa yesterday evening. It was expected that the Russian delegation would arrive in the evening also, but it only arrived today, during the day. I, you know, to explain and to give you a picture of what those delegations have brought with them, I want to let you listen to two interviews which I had with the leaders of the delegations. First of all, here is Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Soviet and leader of the Ukrainian delegation at the talks in Odessa:

[Begin Durdynets recording] Ukraine's state delegation has arrived in Odessa with the sincere wish to sit down at the negotiating table with Russia's state delegation so as, honestly and justly, on the basis of norms and principles of international law, the documents of the CIS and documents between Ukraine and Russia signed in recent years, and our national legislation, to discuss questions connected with the Black Sea Fleet.

First and foremost we proceed from the fact that the Black Sea Fleet is not just ships, (?barges), and arsenals. It is first and foremost people; it is personnel. It is members of families; it is the population of those towns and populated areas on the territory of which the units of the Black Sea Fleet are stationed—and these people should be convinced that we, at such a state level, are capable of finding sensible and acceptable variants for a solution to this far from straightforward question.

I would like, on behalf of our delegation, to appeal—and we have already done this—to appeal to deputies at all levels, to political parties, movements, and to journalists, to create such an atmosphere in this period that would make it possible for us, the delegations, to work in such an atmosphere that it [the situation] does not become more complex. We have travelled to Odessa with the sincere wish to find—I stress once more—a just, honest, and sensible solution to this matter. [end recording]

[Fateyev] And here's [Russian Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman, head of Russian delegation] Yuriy Yarov's answer to my question—what did the leaders of the Russian delegation come with?

[Begin recording] [Yarov, heard against background of correspondents shouting questions] First and foremost all of us, like you, are anxious about this task. We hope we will be able to resolve this task, to find common understanding, and the main thing is that in my view we are all up to what is taking place. I think we will succeed in resolving this problem by normal... what?

[Unidentifed correspondent, interrupting] Are there amendments to the previous positions?

[Yarov] Well I think that they are in the same positions as written in within the framework—of the two presidents, between Russia and Ukraine.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Yarov] That is the main thing.

[Unidentified correspondent] What is the biggest difficulty?

[Yarov] Why look for it? Let's get down to some work and we will see. I think that perhaps they [difficulties] will be there. [end recording]

[Fateyev] Well indeed, you have to agree with Yuriy Yarov, deputy chairman of Russia's Supreme Soviet, why look for difficulties in something which they have not so-to-speak started to sort out thus far? In a word, the talks in Odessa on the Black Sea Fleet are under way, are in full swing. I will try to report on the details in the next Mayak broadcasts and latest news bulletins.

[Announcer] Tell us, please, did you not try to find out from the Russian delegation why it was so late?

[Fateyev] Yes, I asked Yuriy Yarov that question today, during the day, when the plane came in, and you know, to be honest, neither I nor other journalists—and there are more than 70 journalists working here at these talks—got a sensible answer, unfortunately. There was an explanation that apparently our delegation was told late when it was supposed to fly out. Well, I am speaking in approximate terms, but nonetheless it is unintelligible, and this, to be honest, also puts a not very pleasant imprint on the start of the talks.

And another point about which I cannot stay silent either. Yesterday evening Baker, secretary of state of the United States of America, telephoned through to Odessa, and he had a fairly long telephone conversation with Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs Anatoliy Zlenko, who is also a member of the Ukrainian delegation in Odessa, but unfortunately [words indistinct] Kozyrev is not in Odessa. And well, to judge from a brief so-to-speak report, Baker wished [laughs] success for these talks on the fate of the Black Sea Fleet, stressing that the United States is following, with great interest and attention, the development of this—we will put it this way—this disputed element in relations between Ukraine and Russia. Well, we will wait and see. One would very much like to hope that these talks will bring good and useful results and that they will finally resolve the fate of the Black Sea Fleet and the fate of those who serve here in the warm waters of the Black Sea and who keep combat watch.

### Russia 'Needed Some Time'

*LD2904193792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1429 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Odessa—The Russian delegation arrived to Odessa only in the morning to take part in Russian/Ukrainian talks on the Black Sea Fleet slated for April 29. Russian Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Yuriy Yarov, head of the delegation, told journalists at the airport commenting on the delay of the arrival that there had only been a preliminary agreement on the date of the talks without any particular timetable. In his words, we needed some time to gather after the congress and the personal structure of the delegation was determined only by 18.00 [1400 GMT] on April 28. The Russian Federation State Adviser Sergey Shakhray, who was expected to arrive earlier and head the delegation, did not arrive because he believes that he has coordinated this issue with the president, the leadership, and has good reasons not to participate in the talks, that is why I was appointed head of the delegation, stated Yuriy Yarov. The core of the dispute during the forthcoming talks, stated the chief expert with the Defense Ministry of Ukraine on naval issues, Anatoliy Katalov, is in the lack of a common approach to the division of the Black Sea Fleet. Ukraine views the fleet as the fleet of the former USSR, while Russia considers it as the fleet of the CIS and intends to speak about a part of the fleet being transferred to Ukraine. Republican military experts claim that Ukraine has the right for up to 17 per cent of the former USSR fleet, while for the Black Sea Fleet the figure is 8.8 per cent. Thus, demanding the entire Black Sea Fleet being transferred to Ukraine, the republic isn't infringing anybody's interests.

### Ukraine Accepts CIS Presence

*OW3004104892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1023 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A normal atmosphere of mutual understanding dominates the current talks in Odessa between Russia and Ukraine on the Black Sea fleet. The statement was made by the head of the Russian delegation, deputy chairman of the Russian parliament Yuriy Yarov at a [29 April] Wednesday meeting with journalists. He stressed the coincidence of views on a number of issues. "The main thing for both sides is to guarantee the defence capability of the fleet, not divide it", he said.

The head of the Ukrainian delegation, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian parliament Vasyl Durdynets said he does not see reasons to protest against the presence of two Commonwealth naval admirals among the Russian participants in the talks. "One should remember that they are not members of the official Russian delegation and have the status of non-voting experts", he explained.

Asked whether the talks that are expected to end on Friday will produce any results Yuriy Yarov answered: "Definitely".

A news conference is to follow the negotiations. The next round is expected to take place in Russia.

### Chernavin Asked To Join Talks

*OW2904174792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1552 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of the Ukrainian delegation at the negotiations of the Black Sea Fleet Vasyl Durdynets addressed the Commander-in-Chief of the CIS Navy Admiral Chernavin asking the Black Sea Fleet Commander Admiral Chernavin to be included in the list of participating in the negotiations, the fleet headquarters in Sevastopol told "IF" [INTERFAX].

It was also confirmed that according to the information, received from Odessa in the second part of the day Wednesday [29 April], Ukraine does not change its position, it lays claims to all the vessels registered in the ports on its territory.

### Ukrainian Official Interviewed

*LD2904225992 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1852 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Report from Odessa by "special correspondent" Vitaliy Naumenko]

[Excerpts] [Words indistinct] There is no need to look for difficulties where they do not exist . The mood is a good one. Yesterday we heard the speech made by Vasyl

Durdynets, said Yarov. We were pleased with him, in principle, for his constructive attitude.

Incidentally, colleagues in Ostankino yesterday somewhat comically put out a report about the arrival of the Ukrainian delegation, mixing up, on the television screen, the surname of Zlenko, Ukraine's foreign minister, and that of Vasyl Durdynets. We hope that it was simply journalistic carelessness and that further objective coverage of this activity, which is very important for both countries, will not suffer.

The talks began at 1500 in the Receptions building, which is in Sanatornyy Lane, behind firmly closed doors. They only let about 30 television correspondents in. To date it is not yet known if the first day of talks has ended. It is only known that three groups of experts have been set up. So that so far there is nothing to talk about in particular.

Tomorrow, at about 1000, the place and time for holding the final press conference will probably become known. Today, probably immediately after our conversation on the air, there should be a second telephone conversation in the same number of days between Anatoliy Zlenko, Ukraine's minister of foreign affairs, and James Baker, secretary of state of the United States of America. It was planned for the morning but was carried over for the evening. Obviously the conversation will also be about the talks.

And I will draw your attention also to the following: Today—it is possible that our listeners do not know about this yet—29 April can be observed as the birthday of Ukraine's navy. [passage omitted]

To return directly to the subject of the talks, there was an interview at the airport yesterday with Dmytro Pavlychko [chairman of the Ukrainian Foreign Policy Council]. To conclude our conversation, I will also quote the main points of this interview. Dmytro Vasylyovych said that however these talks end for the one or the other side, they are of very great significance since they can serve as a precedent for working out joint approaches for the future. On the position of Marshal Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of the CIS armed forces, that Ukraine is entitled to just 20 percent of the Black Sea Fleet, Dmytro Pavlychko said the following: This does not meet the objective requirements of Ukraine. Ukraine could fully take on herself, let's say, in this region, the role of shield of the western border, and could protect the interests of Russia just as Russia could do so in some other place. As a whole the talks, in Pavlychko's view, will be difficult; very very difficult, until the Russian side begins to respect Ukraine and to see Ukraine as a sovereign state with equal rights. That is all the news for now. Evidently we will be reporting on the details tomorrow. We will hope that there will be news.

## Division Not Yet Discussed

*AU3004105592 Paris AFP in English 0929 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Text] Odessa, Ukraine, April 30 (AFP)—Russia and Ukraine have agreed to a second round of talks on the Black Sea Fleet but have not begun negotiating specifics on how the force will be divided, officials from both countries said Thursday [30 April].

"We discussed issues concerning the defense capacities of the Black Sea Fleet and the conditions for its normal operation," said Yuriy Yarov, the head of the Russian delegation to the talks.

He said the division of the fleet itself had not yet been discussed but added that the second round of negotiations would take place between May 15 and 18. Yarov did not say where they would be held.

During the night, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko spoke by telephone for 45 minutes with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to inform him on the progress made in the talks and on Ukraine's position, officials said.

The two also discussed disarmament questions, Ukrainain President Leonid Kravchuk's upcoming visit to Washington and other issues relating to relations between Ukraine and Russia, the most powerful of the former Soviet republics, they added.

During the talks in the Ukrainian port of Odessa, the two sides agreed to set up three working groups, officials said.

The first was charged with drafting statements, including press communiques, the second with studying possibilities of making the Black Sea a nuclear-free zone and the third with working out the concrete bases for resolving the dispute over the fleet.

Vasyl Durdynets, the deputy speaker of the Ukrainian parliament and head of the Ukrainian delegation, voiced satisfaction with the first results of the talks and Yarov said the two sides had reached a "mutual understanding" on some matters.

Representatives of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) naval command were present during the closed-door negotiations as observers.

Officials from the two delegations were due to give a news conference later Thursday.

## Second Day of Talks Commences

*LD3004104492 Moscow TASS in English 1033 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Text] Odessa April 30 TASS—As was expected, the second day of talks between Russian and Ukrainian delegations on the Black Sea Fleet began at 10:00 AM local time on April 30.

On Wednesday, April 29, the meeting ended late at night. The Ukrainian delegation did not comment on the talks, while members of the Russian delegation said only that they were "seeking points of contact".

According to news analysts, the level of the delegations and the low presence of the military give grounds to suggest that at this stage the meeting will fail to work out a final solution to the Black Sea problem. Presumably, one can count only on progress towards softening the line of the both sides.

The plans of the Russian delegation to leave Odessa this afternoon did not change. So the meeting is likely to end today. Further details about the results of the first stage of the talks will become known at a news conference scheduled to take place at 13:00 local time.

### Naval Officers Meet To Oppose Fleet Division

*LD2904183692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] A meeting of officer delegates of the Black Sea Fleet took place in Sevastopol today. The NEGA agency reports that delegates from the naval headquarters of Ukraine in Sevastopol were not admitted to the meeting, on the grounds that the Fleet commander, Admiral Kasatonov, had strictly banned it. The meeting was held behind closed doors, but we do know that speakers mainly supported the idea of the indivisibility of the Black Sea Fleet. The officers' meeting called on the CIS heads of state to prevent the Fleet from being divided up.

### Personnel Loyal to Ukraine Not Demobilized

*OW2904181192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1552 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Black Sea Fleet headquarters refuted information on an order about demobilization of seamen who swore loyality to Ukraine. This information appeared Tuesday [29 April], saying the order was signed by the Commander-in-Chief of the CIS Navy Admiral Chernavin.

The head of the fleet press center in Sevastopol, Captain 1st Class Lazebnikov stated that nobody received such an order because it does not exist.

## Military

### General Purpose Force Commander Interviewed

*LD2804214692 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Interview With General Purpose Force Commander General Vladimir Semenov, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] It was decided at the latest summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States that the Joint Armed Forces of the community shall consist of a general purpose force and a strategic force. The commanders of the two have been appointed. A young general, Vladimir Semenov, is commander of the general force. This is what he told our correspondent.

[Semenov, in Russian fading to English translation] The general purpose force today is primarily a land force consisting of units stationed in Commonwealth countries. Aviation, rocket forces, the air defense and some other formations belong here. The formation of the Russian Armed Forces somewhat changes the question of the general purpose force. It is becoming necessary to sign a collective security treaty or bilateral defense treaties between Russia or other former Soviet republics. [sentence as heard] The majority of their leaders support such a treaty with Russia. There will arise the question of a joint command to have civilized armed forces.

[Correspondent] Don't you think the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth should differ from the former Soviet Army in content, not just form?

[Semenov, in Russian, fading to English translation] Yes. Today we are facing the task of reforming the Armed Forces as a whole. The old stereotypes are largely outdated. We are giving up big and clumsy formations, primarily because we must reduce our Armed Forces. Russia will have 1.2-1.5 million servicemen. The defense doctrine and the structure of the Armed Forces are changing fundamentally. Today we do not have a distinct enemy. The Armed Forces should be formed according to the doctrine our leadership is putting forward. We suggest conducting the reform [brief break in reception] personnel and the formation of the Russian Armed Forces.

[Correspondent] Several months ago there was talk of common Armed Forces, now of Joint Armed Forces of the Commonwealth. Is it possible that this project will also fail?

[Semenov, in Russian fading to English translation] The Soviet Union no longer exists and a system of independent states has appeared, so it is not quite reasonable to speak of a common force. That is why we speak of Joint Armed Forces. The process has not always been quite civilized. Such countries as Ukraine and Uzbekistan approached the question of forming their own armies in an uncivilized manner. The same can be said of Moldova. Byelarus declared that it is joining the Joint Armed Forces for the transitional period even though its parliament is now debating the issue. Kazakhstan does not put matters in that way and is ready to conclude a defense treaty with Russia.

[Correspondent] The division of the Armed Forces of the former Soviet Union is directly connected with implementation of the 1990 Paris agreement on reductions of conventional armed forces in Europe. What are the prospects of its ratification in the Commonwealth?

[Semenov, in Russian fading to English translation] The period of ratification has been extended by 15 months. The problem became more complicated with the formation of sovereign states. Naturally, the world public is alarmed by the processes. Today the quotas established before the collapse of the Soviet Union are questioned by Ukraine, Moldova, and some other countries. They do not accept the set quotas. The main aim now is to work out acceptable quotas and keep up the level we agreed upon in Paris. I think that this hope should materialize, but the process is very complicated.

## Media

### ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 30 Apr

*LD3004061992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0438 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Text] Moscow April 30 ITAR-TASS—Newspapers give prominent display to Russian President Boris Yeltsin's trip to the north of the Republic. Informing readers about Yeltsin's stay in the Arkhangelsk region and his meetings with people, the newspaper ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA emphasises that on the whole "northerners support reforms".

The army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, writing about Yeltsin's visit to the city of Severodvinsk in the Arkhangel region, underscores Yeltsin's remark that "we cannot allow Americans to invent all of a sudden something with which it may take a swipe at us". Simultaneously, the president emphasised that Russia remains committed to the moratorium on nuclear tests. He expressed hope that France's move to join the Russian initiative will exert due influence on the United States.

Yeltsin said that during his official visit to the United States, which is scheduled for June, he intends to conduct talks with that country's leaders about a complete ban on nuclear weapon tests or minimum tests—both in terms of quantity and yield.

Commenting on the entrance of Russia and other sovereign states of the Commonwealth in the International Monetary Fund, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA points out that "our IMF membership should be attributed to the precondition and chance to become an inalienable and influential part of the world economy."

Commenting on the meeting at the negotiating table of the Russian and Ukrainian delegations on the problem of the Black Sea Fleet, which was scheduled for Wednesday [29 April], the press draws the conclusion that "there will be no specific talk about the fleet at the meeting." The newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA thinks that "politicians will possibly try to find a mechanism for dispelling confrontation between Russia and the Ukrainian Government."

Informing readers about the situation in the Commonwealth trouble spots, the independent NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA paper reports that the confrontation of the parties in the Tajik capital of Dushanbe, where alternative rallies are held, is building to a climax. The newspaper believes the republican Supreme Soviet's decision to hold a regular session may provoke direct clashes.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA today published the full text of the Russian Federation law "on private detective and security activity in the Russian Federation".

Summing up the results of a public opinion poll which found that the majority of Russians, who were questioned, support the present Russian Government, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA concludes that "the cabinet of reforms has a reserve of strength".

The press reports that Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia Aleksiy II performed a liturgy and a funeral service for Grand Duke Vladimir Kirillovich Romanov, head of the Russian imperial house, who died suddenly in the United States several days ago, in St. Petersburg's Saint Isaak Cathedral on Wednesday.

Reporting about the situation in Afghanistan, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes that "with the advent of new power, peace in that country became more tangible." However, although a new government took office in Kabul, one can hardly speak about the stability of this peace, the newspaper adds.

## International Affairs

### Gaydar Concludes Visit to U.S., Departs

### Comments on Talks With Bush

*LD2904222992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2015 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin]

[Text] Washington, 29 Apr—U.S. President George Bush stated firmly on Tuesday that there is enough bipartisan support for assistance to Russia in the U.S. Congress and in the country's political circles to aid the difficult economic reforms in the country.

Addressing Russian journalists before beginning a meeting in the White House with Yegor Gaydar, first deputy prime minister of the Russian Government, the U.S. President stated:

"I would like to tell the people of Russia that politics will be put aside even in this election year in order to do what is necessary. Please tell your people at home that I believe that it will work, that it is feasible."

The President also emphasized that he "supports President Yeltsin" and his government in "efforts directed at implementing the reforms."

Bush continued: "It is critically important, in our interests, and in the interests of the United States to support what they are doing. It is in our interests to adopt an assistance package for Russia, and it is in our interests to show our help for Russia." The President congratulated Russia on her membership in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, adding that in his opinion, the Government of the Russian Federation is "on the right path" in implementing these steps.

According to Yegor Gaydar, during the half-hour discussion they discussed problems in economic relations between the United States and Russia, problems in implementing the Russian Government's reform program, the firmness of the reforms, and choosing the optimum types of U.S. assistance in implementing these reforms. Issues related to preparations for Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin's upcoming official visit to the United States, in June, were also broached.

Asked to comment on President Yeltsin's statement that Russia will not live under the dictate of the IMF, Yegor Gaydar said: "I have already had an opportunity to reply to this question. The point is the following: Russia is implementing its own economic program. It is not implementing it under the dictate of the IMF but because it considers the program expedient, necessary, and only possible by itself. This program is sensible, as a whole, and for this reason it enjoys the support of the international financial community."

Yegor Gaydar also stated that in his opinion the United States, taking into account the upcoming elections and the complexities of the economic situation, is doing everything within its power to render assistance to Russia. He indicated that his meetings in Washington, including with the leadership of the U.S. Congress, demonstrated that the American side understands the pressing necessity of helping Russia in implementing the reform program and the necessity of "quick movement" in those areas which are directly linked with international support for reform.

The first deputy prime minister of Russia stated that at the present time, following approval for Moscow's membership in the IMF and the World Bank, the issue of key importance for Russia is to reach an agreement with the IMF to receive a reserve credit by 1 June this year. This concerns a loan from the IMF for approximately $1 billion which could be used to stabilize Russia's currency reserves. Meanwhile, local financial experts doubt whether the IMF and Russia will succeed in concluding the discussion on the fund's recommendations on economic policy by this time.

U.S. Vice President Quayle; Secretary of State Baker; National Security Adviser Scowcroft; Treasury Secretary Brady; Lukin, Russian ambassador to the United States; and U.S. Ambassador to Russia Strauss were also present at the meeting. Immediately after the discussions with the President, Yegor Gaydar went for separate talks with Secretary of State Baker.

### Comments on Yeltsin Remarks

*LD2904230792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Videotaped report by correspondent Boris Kalyagin from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Having joined the IMF, Russia has received the right to considerable foreign credits. Russian Vice President Yegor Gaydar continued to defend Russia's financial and economic interests in Washington today.

[Kalyagin] The vice president of Russia was received by U.S. President George Bush in the White House where they discussed the Russian Government's planned economic reforms and how the United States can assist in their fulfillment. President Bush expressed his confidence that the U.S. Congress would approve the package of measures he announced for economic aid to Russia.

Yegor Gaydar also met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The parties considered issues pertaining to economic relations between Russia and the United States.

[Begin recording] [Gaydar] The most significant thing was, first, our firm confirmation of our readiness to persevere on the road of reforms and the U.S. Administration's firm confirmation of its readiness to assist with all the means at its disposal, including with financial resources, in Russia's movement toward economic improvement.

[Kalyagin] Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's statement that we will not pursue a policy at the bidding of the IMF have caused wide repercussions here. Nevertheless, there are fears of this kind. What is your opinion?

[Gaydar] Well, I can only agree with the president's statements. We are not pursuing a policy at the IMF's bidding. We are pursuing a policy which we have chosen ourselves and which we ourselves think necessary and reasonable. Fortunately, this is a reasonable policy, and it enjoys the support of the international financial community. [end recording] [video shows meeting between Bush and Gaydar; Baker shaking hands with Gaydar; Gaydar being interviewed by Kalyagin]

### Notes Economic Cooperation Prospects

*LD2904230492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1830 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Report from Washington by correspondent Boris Kalyagin]

[Text] Russia's vice premier was received in the White House by U.S. President George Bush. During the conversation which took place, economic reforms, planned by the Russian Government, and the way the United States could assist their implementation were discussed.

Replying to journalists' questions, George Bush stressed that he supports President Yeltsin and his government in their efforts aimed at democratic reforms. The President expressed his confidence that the U.S. Congress would approve the package of measures to give economic aid to Russia announced by him. Yegor Gaydar also met with James Baker, the U.S. secretary of state. The development of bilateral relations between Russia and the United States was discussed.

After the meetings with the American leaders I asked Yegor Timurovich how he evaluates these conversations.

[Begin recording] [Gaydar] The most significant thing was, first of all, our firm confirmation of our readiness to persevere on the road of reforms and firm confirmation of the readiness of the American administration to assist with all the means at their disposal, inter alia with financial resources, in Russia's movement toward economic improvement.

[Kalyagin] What are the prospects for the development of Russian-American business cooperation?

[Gaydar] In the course of this trip it was obvious that the interest of serious American entrepreneurs in Russia, in what is happening there, in the possibilities for direct capital investments in the Russian economy has grown substantially. This is also understandable. The prospect of interaction with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, of receiving of substantial credits through them and our joining these organizations, in themselves, are a factor which sharply Russia's chances to receive a substantial inflow of foreign capital investments. [end recording]

### Says IMF Membership 'Advantageous'

*LD2904232192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2045 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Vanichkin, Vladimir Matyash]

[Text] Washington, 30 Apr—The visit to Washington by First Deputy Chairman of the Russian Federation Yegor Gaydar ended on Wednesday. He took part in the work of the spring session of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and of the World Bank. The decision to approve the applications to join these major international financial organizations by Russia and the majority of the other former Soviet republics, which was announced during the past forum, was its central event.

In the morning Ye. Gaydar and the other representatives of the Russian Government delegation had a business lunch in the "Sheraton- Carlton" hotel with members of the Bretton-Woods Committee. The head of Russia's delegation told of them of the progress of and the prospects for economic reform with the emphasis on the program of currency stabilization.

A final meeting then took place between Ye. Gaydar and the IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus, which was attended by members of the government delegation of the Russian Federation P. Aven, A. Nechayev, G. Matyukhin, K. Kagalovskiy, and also the Russian Federation's ambassador to the United States, A V. Lukin. In the course of the conversation the sides exchanged views regarding the Russian Federation's course toward radical reforms, the main provisions of which were set out in the memorandum on the Russian Federation's economic policy that was sent to the IMF. M. Camdessus wished the people of Russia success in their advance along the path of national revival and building a free, democratic society, based on a market economy, noting that these efforts are meeting with understanding and support among the world financial community.

There was talk about the transformations in Russia also during the delegation's meeting with the editorial board of THE WASHINGTON POST, the capital's newspaper.

On 27 April it was announced that the majority of the member countries of the IMF and the World Bank had voted for Russia's membership in these international financial organizations, Ye. Gaydar noted in an interview given to the ITAR-TASS correspondent. The terms for our entry are appraised as most advantageous. The Russian Federation's quota in the IMF will be three percent, which corresponds to ninth place immediately following the Big Seven countries and Saudi Arabia. Russia's share in the World Bank's capital will be 2.99 percent, which means 6th-11th place shared with India, Italy, Canada, China, and Saudi Arabia. In addition Russia will have its own representatives in the councils of directors of the IMF and the World Bank. The Russian Federation's entry into these organizations opens up an opportunity for receiving the credits we so much need and creates the conditions for its integration into the world economy.

Russia's entry into the IMF and the World Bank was the main theme at the meetings that were held with the leaders of the two organizations and also with the finance ministers of the big seven countries and other states that attended the meeting of the IMF interim committee, Ye. Gaydar went on to say, noting that he considers that a key moment of the visit was his own speech at the meeting of the Fund's interim committee, in which he spoke about the situation in Russia and the economic policy of the Russian Government. In his speech, he had in particular stressed that it is planned in the very near future to decisively speed up the implementation of economic reform, especially in the realm of agriculture, privatization, and liberalization of foreign trade. Ye. Gaydar also noted the need for the completion as quickly as possible of the talks with the IMF and the World Bank on concluding credit agreements. Speaking at the meeting the finance ministers of a number of countries, including the United States and Britain, expressed support for the Russian Government's economic policy.

Obtaining credit from the IMF and the World Bank will make it possible for Russia to get through the most painful stage of economic reform at the least social cost, Ye. Gaydar said. At the same time obtaining credit will be possible only after Russia's official entry into the IMF and the World Bank, which will happen after the ratification of the charters of these organizations by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

Later in the evening of the same day Ye. Gaydar left Washington for Moscow.

## Break in Economic Relations With Cuba Rejected

*OW2904174392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1552 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MFA], a complete break of economic relations with Cuba runs counter to Russia's interests. The MFA's officials also had to show their surprise at the US position as regards this issue when President George Bush proposed for Congressional approval a bill on democracy in Cuba. The bill envisages a number of measures aimed at Cuba's further isolation.

A high-standing Russian diplomat informed INTERFAX that the US President's bill produced a feeling of "alarm" in the Ministry of Foreign affairs since it "relates to the issues which have to do with the sovereignty and competence of other countries", including Russia.

In the words of the diplomat, US Administration ought to be aware that the Russian-Cuban relations are currently subject to "deep changes". Therefore, any claims to Russia in regards to these issues are "ultimately groundless".

## Legislators Hold Talks With Cuban Opposition

*LD2604213592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[Report by correspondent G. Batiyev, identified by screen caption, on meeting between Russian and Cuban officials in Moscow on 22 April, including recorded remarks by Carlos Alberto, president of the Cuban Liberal Union, identified by screen caption; Alberto in Spanish with superimposed Russian translation; and including recorded interview with A. Surkov, member of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Links, by correspondent A. Goryachev; Surkov and Goryachev identified by screen caption; from the "Novosti" newscast presented by Mikhail Osokin]

[Excerpts] [Osokin] Lenin dreamed of creating a system of world socialism. However, only fragments of it now remain. In particular the leaders of Cuba call their island one of the last bastions of socialism. Meanwhile, the opponents of the Cuban leaders are demanding changes and are seeking new allies.

[Batiyev] Before they had even recovered from the Congress debate on the future of the homeland, Russia's deputies decided to engage in international affairs. Today, members of the International Relations Committee, the Human Rights Committee, and the Budgetary and Taxation Committee have been meeting at the White House with representatives of the Cuban opposition and the International Law Defense Movement, who have come to Moscow to take part in a conference entitled: Cuba-Russia: From totalitarianism to democracy.

The aim of the conference is to inform Russia's public opinion about the infringements of human rights which are occurring in Cuba. [video shows Cuban opposition representatives meeting Russian deputies]

[Alberto] We should very much like to secure support for our efforts to create a law-based democratic state on the island. [passage omitted]

[Batiyev] Our deputies have a firm stance of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states. On the other hand, the Supreme Soviet does not regard itself as being fully aware of about all the nuances of our bilateral relations, in particular with Cuba. The matter of the continuing supply of Soviet oil to the island through third countries came as a total surprise to the deputies. [video shows interview with Surkov]

[Goryachev] So, the Russian White House has been receiving representatives of the opposition and the Law Defense Movement, and Moscow will be the venue for the conference: Russia-Cuba: From totalitarianism to democracy. Aleksey Porfiryevich, does this mean that our country and our government officially support the opposition to Fidel Castro's regime?

[Surkov] Well, one certainly cannot put the issue that way, since neither parliament nor the government have ever made any such official statements. However, the fact that Russia has become open to all persuasions is unequivocal. After all, we have had a normal conversation. The Cuban oppositionists are interested most of all, of course, in the fate of their homeland, tiny Cuba, and when, of course, socialism will collapse there. This is an unconcealed desire on the part of many people of course, because, you know, socialism has not really existed anywhere.

[Goryachev] What is your opinion? Will holding this conference in Moscow at the present stage not spoil our relations with Cuba, with official Cuba?

[Surkov] I would stress yet again that our meeting was at quite a high level. It may perhaps have dismayed Castro himself and his circle, but after all we are meeting in Russia, and in the final analysis it is Russia's decision whom it meets.

## Military Presence on Kurils To Continue

*OW2904134092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1301 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature based on reports by diplomatic correspondents M. Mayorov, I. Porshnev, and others; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia intends to maintain its military presence on the South Kuril Islands for the time being. As DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent learned from military command circles in Moscow, a commission of the CIS armed forces General Staff visited the islands recently and came to the conclusion that "it's pointless" to raise the issue of their demilitarization.

According to the commission, the number of troops stationed on the South Kurils and their fighting strength are so insignificant that they simply cannot be compared to Japan's Northern Army based on the Island of Hokkaido.

Judging by information DP's correspondent obtained from the General Staff in Moscow, the military grouping based on the South Kurils includes an incomplete artillery and machinegun division (formerly a motorized infantry division) plus an airforce regiment comprising 28 MiG-23 fighter planes. Besides, there are 420 Navy sailors engaged largely in servicing lighthouses and securing navigation.

Russian military experts believe that the ratio between the Russian military grouping on the South Kurils and Japan's Northern Army is 1:50.

## Position on Kuril Islands Problem 'Unchanged'

*LD2904223992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1323 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Apr—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze said in an interview with this ITAR-TASS correspondent today that "the principled position of Russia on the question of the Southern Kuril Islands remains unchanged. It has the firm intention of tackling the territorial problem within the framework of a negotiating process and on the basis of legality and justice." He said the Russian side intends to push ahead with tackling this issue, a key one in relations with Japan, and has no intention of drawing it out.

Touching upon recent statements by representatives of the Japanese Foreign Ministry in the Japanese mass media envisaging recognition of Japanese sovereignty over these islands, the Russian diplomat said "that is precisely the problem."

Kunadze thinks there should be a legal discussion about what should be regarded as the solution of the problem—the achievement of an accord or its implementation. He thinks it would be much more logical to regard the problem as solved when an accord is achieved. If the problem is looked at in that light, the demands of the Japanese side for immediate recognition of its sovereignty over the islands seem to be nothing more nor less than a full and final solution of the problem of territorial division. "On our side, we believe that is precisely the issue to be negotiated," Kunadze stressed.

Referring to the progress made in solving the problem, the deputy minister stressed the positive changes in the Japanese attitude of late. "It cannot be said that we are satisfied with all the recent proposals. However, the fact that for the first time in all these years the Japanese approach to the territorial problem is actually starting to change should be regarded as a positive thing." Tokyo's recently displayed readiness to tackle flexibly and gradually all the disputed aspects confirms this.

The deputy minister dismissed Japanese media reports that Russia allegedly refuses to recognize the joint Japanese-Soviet 1956 declaration. Kunadze noted that as successor to the USSR, Russia has recognized all its international obligations, including the 1956 declaration. By virtue of its status as a successor-country, Russia cannot have a selective approach to the former obligations of the USSR. However, he added, it is not a question of what to recognize and how, but how to push ahead with tackling all the disputed questions.

On the prospects for a Russian-Japanese peace treaty, the Russian diplomat admitted that only a solution of the territorial problem can bring about such a development. He concluded by saying that nobody has any illusions concerning the possibility of signing a treaty without properly tackling this problem.

### Talks With Ukraine, Crimea Factor Viewed

*MK2904160092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Apr 92 pp 1-2*

[Vitaliy Portnikov report under "Forecast" rubric: "Russo-Ukrainian Talks. Is It Worth Nuturing Illusions on This Score?"]

[Text] Russo-Ukrainian talks on the fate of the Black Sea Fleet have gotten underway in Odessa—maybe precisely that rare instance of a quest for an accord that nobody needs. It is not even a matter of the radical difference in the sides' positions, for each of them has already managed to announce its jurisdiction over the Black Sea Fleet. Nor is it a matter of the "raw" documents of the CIS which permit each side to find therein mutually exclusive formulations and put forward appropriately solid arguments backed up with the signatures of Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk. The crux of the matter ultimately lies in the whereabouts of this fleet. The Kremlin is perfectly well aware that even if Ukraine was overcome with the profoundest admiration for the "glory of Russian arms" and handed over all—well, almost all—the Black Sea Fleet to Russia, with a view to its remaining on Ukrainian territory, the agreement reached would all the same be a temporary, Pyrrhic victory, and it would soon turn out that the Russian fleet was manned by citizens of another state. Kiev cannot fail to understand that even if Russia agrees with the Ukrainian ideas concerning the sides' equality of rights and right to the property situated on its territory and hands over to it all—well, almost all—of the Black Sea Fleet, and following this Crimea declares itself "independent" or attaches itself to the neighboring power, then the accord, together with the battleships and the admirals, will remain merely an elegant work of diplomatic art.

So the dispute over the fleet becomes—for the umpteenth time—a dispute over Crimea.

The Russian leadership cannot, and indeed it is disadvantageous for it to do so, raise the territory issue, and not without reason did Boris Yeltsin ask the deputies of the Russian congress not to do this. But the Kremlin can hope that the Crimeans themselves will resolve their fate at the referendum. Therefore it is difficult to expect any readiness to seek a compromise on the part of the Russian participants in the talks before 5 May, when the holding of the referendum is to be discussed in Simferopol. Russia is almost certain of the success of the Crimean referendum, and it is not far from the truth, but for some reason here it is virtually disregarding the fact that geographical proximity precisely to Ukraine may force any Crimean leadership—even if it is formed from activists of the pro-Russian "Crimea" republican movement—to select a "middle course" in relation to both Russia and Ukraine. The emergence of what would not be the "Island of Crimea" of literature—albeit populated for the most part by Slavs, but already acquiring Crimean Tatar features—will hurl Russian geopolitics back to those most archaic battles of the "time of Ochakov and the subjugation of Crimea" which seemed so much ancient history not only to Yeltsin but also to Chatskiy.

Kiev is also awaiting the Crimean referendum—or, more correctly, its "nonholding": That would be the greatest success for Ukraine, would enshrine the present status of the republic, and would permit it to develop the resettlement of the Crimean Tatars, which would divert the political activeness of the peninsula's population into a different channel for some considerable time. In an attempt to dissuade the Crimeans from holding the referendum, or, in the last resort, achieving the failure of the separation slogan at it, Kiev has already, it seems, gotten as far as the internationalization of the issue, having at last observed that the Crimea problem is not a Russo-Ukrainian issue but primarily a Russo-Ukrainian-Turkish issue. Or, in a word, a Crimean Tatar issue. At any rate, it can scarcely be deemed coincidental that the chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, the prime minister of Crimea, and the chairman of the Crimean Tatar people's mejlis were all in Ankara at one and the same time. However paradoxical, Turkish economic assistance in conjunction with its own evidence of Crimea's integration into the Ukrainian economy are becoming for Kiev the main argument in favor of maintaining the peninsula's status. Given the negative development of events, this argument may easily turn into "the last argument of kings," and in the meantime it is completely unclear what the Russian Federation will be able to counter this with.

The talks on the fleet are maybe the most pointless in the entire short history of the new Russo-Ukrainian relations inasmuch as both sides—and they understand this perfectly well—do not need a fleet. It is not yet clear whether or not this is also realized by the command of the Black Sea Fleet, which "by dint of legislative circumstances," mutually contradictory decrees, and so forth is all the time becoming an autnomous party to the conflict. For the presidents of Russia and Ukraine can come to an agreement if they so desire, they have already demonstrated this more than once; but Admiral Kasatonov, the president of his "floating power," is capable of becoming that most seemingly recalcitrant participant in the clarification of relationships whose position will cancel out any conciliatory accords.

### Meeting With Latvia on Troop Withdrawals Opens

*LD2704105692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0911 GMT 27 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandrs Budris]

[Text] Moscow April 27 TASS—A regular round of meetings of expert groups—to draft an agreement between Russia and Latvia on terms, a time-frame and a procedure for a systematic withdrawal of the armed forces of the former Soviet Union from Latvian territory and on their legal status during the withdrawal period—opens in the Russian Foreign Ministry today, a spokesman at the press service of the Latvian Embassy in Russia told ITAR-TASS.

The expert groups are headed: On the Russian side by Ambassador Sergey Zotov, and on the Latvian side by Deputy Defence Minister Dainis Turlais.

As has already been reported, the troops of the former Soviet Union, stationed in the Baltics, are under Russia's jurisdiction. The number of servicemen in Latvia, according to various estimates, is from 45,000 to 60,000.

An understanding on the beginning of their withdrawal was reached during the visit by the state delegation of the Russian Federation to Riga on February 1.

The two previous meetings of the experts groups were held in Moscow and Riga in March.

## 'Customs Regime' Issue Raised

*LD2804084192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0730 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian delegation at the talks with Latvia has raised the issue of the measures directed toward thrusting "a kind of customs regime" upon Russian troops being rescinded without delay as "incompatible with the principle of sovereignty and the state's immunity which is conditional on this."

This was stated in an interview to the ITAR-TASS correspondent by Sergey Zotov, the head of the delegation of the Russian Federation at the talks with the Latvian Republic, and the charge d'affairs .

The third round of talks between Russian and Latvian experts to draw up an agreement on the conditions, dates and procedure for the systematic withdrawal of the armed forces of the former USSR which are under Russian jurisdiction from Latvian territory and on their legal regime started in Moscow on 27 April.

During the opening of the talks, Sergey Zotov said, the Russian delegation drew the Latvian side's attention to "the impermisssibility and the illegality of imperious, unilateral, restrictive and prohibitive measures taken by Latvian customs bodies with regard to the Russian armed forces, which possess immunity." These measures, according to him, have manifested themselves in the establishment of customs posts around airports, Baltic Fleet bases, and the cantonment in Liepa.

The Russian side, the ambassador stressed, is starting to have doubts about whether Latvia will preserve its intention to seek mutually acceptable accords on all issues during the course of the talks, or whether it sees them as a sort of "curtain" under the cover of which they are making attempts "to achieve something by unilateral measures."

The Russian diplomat described the steps taken by the Latvian authorities as "being of a provocatory nature."

The Latvian side informed the Russian delegation that this question would be settled in the near future, Sergey Zotov reported.

## Latvian Representative on Talks

*LD2904192992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1717 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Moscow April 29 TASS—In spite of an agreement which was reached earlier, Russia refused to produce a schedule for the withdrawal of its troops from Latvia, Latvian Deputy Defense Minister Daynis Turlais told journalists at a news conference here on Wednesday.

Turlais addressed the news conference after the third round of talks between Russia and Latvia on conditions of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia.

Latvian leaders believe Russia could withdraw its troops from Riga by October 1992 and by October 1993 from the rest of the Republic, Turlais said. Latvia will hold a general election in the autumn of 1993 and the presence of foreign troops can influence a free vote.

Latvian terms are absolutely inadmissible, Russian Ambassador to Latvia Sergey Zotov told ITAR-TASS. According to our experts, Russian military vehicles will have to move non-stop for a year and a half in order to carry all the equipment and personnel from Latvia. The delay with the schedule is caused by the desire to resolve the needs of the military.

## Troop Talks With Lithuania, Latvia Viewed

*PM2904141992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 3*

[Captain Second Rank V. Gromak report under "Direct Line" rubric: "Third Meeting of Experts Did Not Produce Results Either. Lithuania Insists on Immediate Withdrawal of Russian Troops"—last paragraph is KRASNAYA ZVEZDA afterword]

[Text] Vilnius, 28 Apr—"Unfortunately, Russia still does not want to discuss the final date for its army's withdrawal, its timing or schedule, or compensation for the harm done to Lithuania and its citizens," Minister Aleksandras Abisala declared after the third meeting of experts of the Lithuanian and Russian state delegations concerning our army's withdrawal from Lithuania. Meetings were held at the Foreign Ministry over two days. Lithuania's group of experts was headed by Minister Aleksandras Abisala, and Russia's by Viktor Isakov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary.

Abisala also pointed out that it was not possible even to ascertain Russia's position on these questions, and so it is impossible to continue discussing fine technical details. He believes that the state delegations must provide the answer to the most important political questions. A date has not yet been set for their meeting.

Viktor Isakov, head of the group of Russian experts, in turn declared that the timing of the troop withdrawal was discussed at the meeting, but it is still impossible today to speak of many complex technical and economic questions or of when and how Russia's army will be withdrawn from Lithuania. We do not want to indicate times but not keep to them, Isakov remarked. Replying to a question about who owes what to whom by way of compensation, the ambassador pointed out that neither side has yet presented its accounts with regard to property claims. Russian specialists have prepared such data, however.

Meanwhile, the Lithuanian Supreme Council session has spent several days discussing a draft resolution on the holding of a referendum on the urgent withdrawal of troops of the former USSR from the territory of the Lithuanian Republic and on compensation for the harm done to Lithuania. It is planned to hold it 14 June.

Incidentally. The latest meeting of expert groups from Russia and Latvia, which began in Moscow 27 April, was devoted to the preparation of an agreement on the terms for the temporary stay of troops of the former USSR and on their withdrawal from Latvia. The Russian side is headed by Sergey Zotov, deputy chief of a Foreign Ministry administration, and the Latvian side by Deputy Defense Minister Dainis Turlais.

### Deputy Foreign Minister's Baltic Trip Postponed

*LD2704110292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0831 GMT 27 Apr 92*

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandrs Budris]

[Text] Moscow April 27 TASS—The Baltic trip by the first deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, Fyodor Shelov- Kovedyayev, originally scheduled for April 27-29, has been adjourned "due to the need for him to participate in tackling urgent problems in Russia's foreign and domestic policy", ITAR-TASS was informed by the deputy minister's secretariat.

According to a secretariat official, the trip is tentatively re-scheduled for early May.

Shelov-Kovedyayev was expected to fly to Vilnius today to represent Russian President Boris Yeltsin in the ceremonial exchange of the ratification instruments for the treaty of basic principles in interstate relations between the Russian Federation and the Lithuanian Republic.

### St Petersburg Talks With Estonia Postponed

*LD2804161692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1158 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Kondratenko]

[Text] St. Petersburg, 28 Apr—A meeting between working groups of Estonian and Russian state delegations in charge of providing essential supplies for border regions has been postponed at the initiative of the Estonian side. As an ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned, the new dates have tentatively been set for 5-7 May.

The dialogue with Estonia, which has territorial claims on Russia, is proceeding with difficulty. Anatoliy Sobchak, the current Mayor of St. Petersburg, headed the USSR [as received] delegation at the initial stage of the talks. The Estonian side has asked that he be replaced by a more professional diplomat, more given to compromise.

### Gaydar Informed of Lithuanian Debt to Enterprises

*LD2804205692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 27 Apr 92*

[Announcer-read report from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The overall debt of Russian enterprises to Lithuania amounts to over 5 billion rubles. This is stated in the telegram which Lithuanian Prime Minister Vagnorius sent to vice prime minister Yegor Gaydar.

### Polish Concerns Over Kaliningrad Army Rebuffed

*PM2404085092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 7*

[Report by Sergey Guk and Leonid Kornilov: "Feelings Running High Over the 'Kaliningrad Enclave.' There Are Those Who Are Impatient To Turn it Into a New Military Threat Hotbed"]

[Text] Recently Warsaw has been getting "asthmatic" over Russia's Kaliningrad Oblast. Politicians, the military, and the media are in a state of nervous tension. The gist of the grievances is that Poland faces a new military threat from there.

Some 250,000-300,000 CIS servicemen are stationed in Kaliningrad Oblast, the worried voices say, and their numbers are continuing to be swelled by military units that are being withdrawn from the FRG, Poland, and the Baltic states—splendidly trained units with modern equipment. Moscow's explanation for all this is that there is a shortage of housing in the interior of Russia. But here too both soldiers and officers and their families are having to live in tents...

According to the paper POLSKA ZBROJNA, which specializes in the military threat from the East, a dangerous situation has developed: "Former Soviet experts know everything about the Polish military machine, whereas all our specialists know about them is what Moscow permitted them to know." Border protection has deteriorated, the paper continues, and the situation in the "enclave" is explosive. It is overpopulated already, "but heavily armed units are continuing to arrive with their families and belongings. Who knows what to expect from these deceived and disappointed people?"

Polish National Defense Minister J. Parys addressed the matter on 20 March, voicing serious cocnern "in connection with the major concentration of forces of the former USSR in Kaliningrad Oblast." The minister said that he saw no reason why such a massive number of troops of a foreign state had to be stationed so close to Poland's borders. J. Parys called for the establishment of a 50-km zone with a reduced troop presence on both sides of the border and the holding of talks in this connection. And although the minister has gone on "leave," more like retirement, since then, his statement has not been officially disavowed.

The POLSKA ZBROJNA editorial office may not know all the details of what is happening. But the Polish Defense Ministry must have full information. So it knows full well that the numerical strength of the "Kaliningrad grouping" has remained virtually unchanged in recent years. Here is the official information supplied by Lieutenant General Viktor Barynkin, first deputy chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces General Staff main directorate: "They can only be talking about troops in transit, and there is no way this can increase the number of troops permanently stationed there. So there can be no question of any 'over-militarization' of Kaliningrad Oblast. There is even the possibility that the nmumber of troops here might be cut."

The general has a personal stake, I hear you say. Fine, in that case, there is the evidence of impartial people. In accordanace with the treaty on conventional armaments in Europe, the "Kaliningrad grouping" is being continuously monitored at an international level. The foreign military specialists involved in this have no complaints to make: There are no grounds for any.

## Khasbulatov Continues Visit to Germany

### Talks With Kohl

*LD2804192992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Video report by correspondent V. Kondratyev from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] Yegor Gaydar, the first vice prime minister, is staying in Washington, while Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, is now in Bonn. In spite of the differences in their views, both are eager to prove that Russia needs aid, even though the Russian leadership has diverged somewhat from the standard stabilization program. In addition, Ruslan Imranovich has witnessed some serious changes in the German Cabinet of Ministers.

[Kondratyev] Although our relations with Germany are comprehensive, one important element has been missing from them, namely, parliamentary contacts. Ruslan Khasbulatov's visit is called for to fill this gap.

Today, Khasbulatov met Gregor Gysi, chairman of the parliamentary Party of Democratic Socialism [PDS]. The example of the PDS, which is the heir of the former Socialist Unity Party, shows that the political opponents in parliament and society here have been provided with conditions for their vital activities and practical work.

The main event today was a meeting between Ruslan Khasbulatov and Chancellor Kohl. It was very lively, informal, and frank. The chancellor expressed his concern over whether Russia may end up like the USSR. Khasbulatov expressed his confidence that this will not happen, and that the Federation Treaty has created a basis for Russian unity. The chancellor stated that he is a believer in market reforms in Russia, which should take into account the social protection of the population. He let it be known that, at the G-7 meeting in Munich, he will speak in favor of further aid for Russia.

Tomorrow, Ruslan Khasbulatov will head for Munich. Then he will visit Saxony, a new Federal land in the territory of the former GDR. [passage omitted]

### Remarks in Bonn Cited

*PM2904105392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 7*

[RIA correspondent Vladimir Markov report especially for ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA: "Ruslan Khasbulatov Confirms Parliament's Commitment to Market Reforms"]

[Text] The visit to the FRG by Ruslan Khasbulatov, head of the Russian parliament, is taking place in unusual circumstances. Bonn politicians are still animatedly discussing the consequences of Hans-Dietrich Genscher's 17 May resignation as foreign minister—a post which he had held for 18 years.

By coincidence, the first nationwide strike in the FRG for 18 years is currently under way. It has been called by the civil service and transport union, which has around 100,000 members. Through this strike Ruslan Khasbulatov has been able to see for himself yet again just how different the problems affecting the two countries are: In particular, the strikers have paralyzed virtually all public transport in major cities, because their annual wage increase demands differed from the offer made by the "employers" by less than 5 percent (the figures being 9.5 and 4.8 percent respectively). Thus, as Chancellor

Helmut Kohl noted, this dispute, which is causing chaos in German cities, is taking place merely because of an average salary increase of 35 German marks...

Against this backdrop, the various approaches seen during the whole series of meetings held by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet chairman in Bonn become clearer. And two topics at the center of the interlocutors' attention can be highlighted. The first relates to the results and consequences of the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies—something our German partners were interested in. Ruslan Khasbulatov expressed regret that the mass media in the FRG—as is the case in our country, incidentally—had presented a "distorted and unobjective" picture of the Congress, as if it had been a battle against economic reform.

Speaking at a Bundestag press conference he noted that "only 40-60 people, no more" out of the more than 1,000 Congress participants "wanted to halt the reforms." But, in the main, the Congress participants—who are well aware of the situation at local level—spoke in favor of the reforms, while simultaneously advocating their "more intelligent implementation." The head of the Russian Parliament stressed in this connection that the most important task is, if necessary, to "expand the social base of privatization and reform as a whole." He repeatedly spoke in Bonn about the fact that he is a "supporter of the Ludwig Erhard reforms aimed at setting up a socially oriented market economy," rather than backing the "severe Chicago school model." The chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet believes that his explanations regarding the Congress made it possible to a certain extent to dispel the doubts in Bonn political circles regarding the position of the Russian Parliament's leadership.

The second priority, which was touched upon by Ruslan Khasbulatov himself, concerns the development of large-scale economic cooperation between Russia, the FRG, and the West as a whole. He also advocated that Germany be bolder in directly investing in the Russian economy, assuring the FRG leadership and representatives of FRG business circles that "all the necessary legal prerequisites have now been created to allow Western entrepreneurs to do business in our country."

"Russia and Germany are major neighboring states which should not only develop large-scale cooperation with each other, but are called upon to play an important part in the unification of all Europe," Ruslan Khasbulatov believes. He told journalists that, during a discussion with Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the FRG foreign minister had expressed concern about the situation in the CIS. After all, there are a total of 60 million people in the CIS countries living outside the republic they consider their home. These include 25 million Russians. The submission of "territorial claims" in this situation is liable to "complicate the lives of tens of millions of our countrymen." This problem, Ruslan Khasbulatov said, is of concern to Hans-Dietrich Genscher too.

As a result of several conversations between Ruslan Khasbulatov and Bundestag Chairman Rita Suessmuth, agreement was reached on a considerable galvanization of Russo-German parliamentary cooperation. And it is planned to consult not only on practical issues of the organization of the parliament's work, but also on such fundamental problems as the relationship between federal and local forms and structures of societal organization.

## Commission on Ethnic Germans Meets in Bonn

*LD2404141192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1521 GMT 23 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Kalintsev]

[Text] Bonn, April 23 TASS—The first meeting of the German-Russian Commission on Problems of Ethnic Germans in Russia gave a strong impetus to the policy in favour of ethnic Germans in Russia, Horst Waffenschmidt, parliamentary secretary of state at the interior minister's office, told a news conference here on Thursday. Waffenschmidt is authorised by the federal government to deal with resettlers' affairs. He heads the German part of the commission.

He said two-day negotiations in Bonn showed clearly that both sides intend to adhere to the provisions of the joint statement signed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl in November 1991. A joint protocol on German-Russian cooperation in the area has been worked out and will be initialled on Thursday. It sets out specific measures for stage-by-stage restoration of the Volga republic of Germans. The sides also decided which areas are to be inhabited by ethnic Germans in Russia. Self-government is introduced there and specific projects for development are planned.

Chairman of the Russian State Committee for Nationalities Policy Valeriy Tishkov admitted that errors had been made in dealing with the problem of ethnic Germans in Russia. These errors are now being corrected. A broad-based commission for monitoring observance of planned measures was formed by a government decree. Authoritative organising committees were formed in the Saratov and Volgograd regions. They will deal with matters of stage-by-stage restoration of German statehood. This will be a prolonged process, to which all the parties agree. This is the only way to resolve such an intricate problem, Tishkov said.

Heinrich Grout, chairman of the Interstate Committee for Rehabilitation of Germans in the USSR, expressed satisfaction over arrangements reached in Bonn. He told ITAR-TASS the new Russian leadership makes a serious attempt to advance the solution of this problem.

Horst Waffenschmidt and Valeriy Tishkov intialled in Bonn on Thursday a protocol on cooperation between the German and Russian governments during a stage-by-stage restoration of statehood of ethnic Germans in Russia. The Russian government, the document says, confirms the intention gradually to restore the Volga

German republic within the area where Germans lived by tradition and within infringing the interests of the population residing there.

The Russian side will take the necessary steps for the purpose. They envisage the working out of stage-by-stage plan for the implementation of earlier adopted state acts. Other documents regulating the procedure of Germans resettlement, questions of the property on land, the status of autonomies and of the future republic in accordance with the constitution and legislation of the Russian Federation will be adopted.

Under the protocol, the German side pledges itself to give the necessary support to the Russian government within the limits of its possibilities in implementing these plans in the economic, cultural and social area.

### Protocol on FRG Aid Signed

*PM2704100592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 4*

[Yevgeniy Bovkun report: "Moscow and Bonn Reach Agreement: Russia's Germans Will Receive Self-Government"]

[Text] Bonn—Valeriy Tishkov, Russian minister for nationalities policy, and parliamentary State Secretary Horst Waffenschmidt, the Federal Government's plenipotentiary representative for migrants' affairs, have initialed a protocol on cooperation between the FRG and Russian Governments in the phased restoration of the Russian Germans' statehood.

The document makes provision for plans for the development of certain areas of German settlement where intensive housing construction will be set in train, agriculture organized, and social and medical establishments built. However, H. Waffenschmidt stressed that the FRG will only provide this aid if it is convinced that the Germans intend to stay in these oblasts. The Federal Government would like them to take advantage of their "Russian" opportunity.

People in Bonn are taking Russian Germans' wishes into consideration. If they prefer Ukraine, they could set up their own autonomous German okrugs there again as was the case a few decades ago. But it is more preferable for Germany for the republic on the Volga that was eliminated in 1941 on Stalin's orders to be revived. In Bonn's opinion, this would be an important symbol for the Germans themselves—a symbol that justice has triumphed, whereby they can take part in the state development [obustroystvo] of Russia. To a considerable extent it is now a question of creating preconditions for a new German state system to emerge on the Volga.

The sides mapped out areas inhabited by Russian Germans where self-government will be introduced. They include settlements in Altay Kray, Omsk Oblast, and near Orenburg. The administration of Volgograd Oblast, whose leader took part in the talks in Bonn, promised to form by this summer a German autonomous okrug on lands satisfactory to the migrants. Things are more complex in Saratov Oblast, but there too an autonomous formation will most likely be set up by the end of the year with the status of a national rayon.

At the same time the participants in the talks agreed on the need to organize aid for areas of the CIS so that the Russian population and representatives of other nationalities living near the German settlements also "get something." A joint German-Russian governmental commission involving representatives of the ethnic Germans will supervise the implementation of the accords.

### Spokesman on Protocol

*LD2704161992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1324 GMT 27 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabinin]

[Text] Moscow April 27 TASS—The protocol on cooperation between the governments of Russia and Germany, initialled in Bonn last week, is very important both for the future of Russian Germans and the two states," Chairman of the Russian State Committee for National Affairs Valeriy Tishkov told ITAR-TASS. "Russia," he said, "reaffirms its intention to restore stage by stage a German republic on the Volga, embracing areas traditionally inhabited by Germans, without infringing upon the interests of the population now living there."

"The two-day talks in Bonn," Tishkov noted, "have clearly shown that both sides adhere firmly to the joint statement, signed last November by the Russian president and the FRG chancellor. The Russian side has assumed a commitment to draw up a stage-by-stage plan for implementing the earlier adopted programmes. Other normative acts will be issued to regulate the resettlement of Russian Germans, the status of national formations and of the future republic, in keeping with the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

For its part, Germany is prepared to render substantial technical, material and humanitarian aid to German national districts. It may run into 100 million marks already this year. The main attention will be devoted to various ventures on the Volga territory, where the statehood of the Russian Germans is to be restored.

"However," Tishkov said, "no deadlines or concrete size of the autonomous republic's territory were discussed in Bonn."

### Official Holds Talks in Bucharest on Dniester

*PM2204135892 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 5*

[Own information report: "No Fundamental Differences in Position of Russia and Romania on Dniester Region"]

[Text] Talks have been held in Bucharest between F. Shelov-Kovedyayev, Russian first deputy foreign minister, and Romanian Foreign Minister A. Nastase. They discussed issues relating to the situation in the Dniester region.

The Romanian minister stressed that Romania will do everything possible to carry out the obligations it shouldered at the talks in the Moldovan capital. For his part, the Russian representative stated that there are no fundamental differences in the positions held by Russia and Romania on a peaceful settlement of the situation in the Dniester region.

Meanwhile, Romania learned with concern of the latest violation of the "quadripartite" cease-fire agreement. A statement issued by the Romanian Foreign Ministry says that "these irresponsible actions are undermining the peaceful settlement process and run counter to the spirit of the Chisinau talks."

### Comments on Talks

*LD2504204392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1703 GMT 20 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Dyakov]

[Text] Bucharest, 20 Apr—Topical questions of Romanian-Russian cooperation were discussed today by Adrian Nastase, the head of Romania's foreign policy department, and Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev, deputy Russian minister of foreign affairs. He arrived here on a working visit to take part in the conference on the protection of the Black Sea from pollution, which takes place in Bucharest on Tuesday.

The sides noted that diplomatic contacts between Russia and Romania became more active following the signing last year of a protocol on consultations between the two ministries. It was stressed that the necessary mechanisms and conditions had been created in both countries for a broadening of mutually advantageous ties in various spheres of activity, particularly economic. The two parties came to the conclusion that the foreign policy departments of the two states should play a more active role in creating an atmosphere of interest and trust and also in establishing direct contacts between various Romanian and Russian institutions.

Problems connected with the situation in the Dniester region were discussed during the meeting. A. Nastase stressed that the Chisinau accords of the foreign ministers of the four countries are creating favorable conditions for a cease-fire and are opening up real opportunities for the separation of the belligerents.

Agreeing with this, F. Shelov-Kovedyayev noted that Russia's diplomatic efforts would in the future continue to be directed at seeking ways toward a political settlement to the crisis in the left-bank regions of the Dniester. He came out in favor of continuing consultations within the framework of the mixed commission now operating in the region, and also for a widening of the "social spectrum" of observers.

"They could be not only military, but civilian persons, too: representatives of the most varied public and law-protecting organizations and parliamentarians who would be able to give a more objective picture of what is happening there", F.Shelov-Kovedyayev told ITAR-TASS at the end of the conversation. "It is no secret that in both the Russian and the Romanian media the events in the Dniester region are being over-dramatized, and this is preventing the diplomatic departments and experts from making a realistic assessment of the situation there".

Replying to another question, F. Shelov-Kovedyayev stressed that the Russian side was satisfied that at the current stage of the talks "an acceptable form of contacts" had been found between the foreign ministers of the four countries and the Dniester side. In his opinion, many people did not properly understand Russia's intentions regarding the use of the 14th Army in settling the conflict. "We were speaking only about our readiness to offer a limited contingent of men to keep the warring sides apart, and only in the event of the Moldovan side giving its consent".

In conclusion the first deputy minister noted that there were no fundamental differences in the Russian and Romanian positions on questions of a settlement to the conflict in the Dniester region. "Both sides are in favor of a peaceful settlement to the problems there and that is very umportant", F. Shelov-Kovedyayev said.

### Meets Romanian President

*LD2504205192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1832 GMT 21 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Dyakov]

[Text] Bucharest, 21 Apr—Russian-Romanian cooperation is developing successfully. One of the positive examples of interaction in relations between the two countries is their participation in settling the conflict in the Dniester region. This was stated by Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev, first Russian deputy foreign minister during his meeting with Romanian President Ion Iliescu. The two parties expressed their mutual determination to maintain a restrained approach to a solution to the problems which exist in the left-bank regions of the Dniester. They stressed important significance to observing the accords reached by the foreign ministers of the four countries during the talks held recently in Chisinau.

During the conversation the sides informed one another of the internal political processes that are going on in Romania and Russia, and discussed problems of bilateral relations. F. Shelov-Kovedyayev told the president about the progress of the work in Moscow of the Congress of People's Deputies and about the latest decisions adopted there.

After the meeting the Russian Foreign Ministry representative told journalists at the presidential palace that his conversation with the Romanian leader had passed "in a frank and very warm atmosphere". "Relations between our countries are free of alien elements which in the past have created considerable difficulties, and we are now working together as two equal and independent states", F. Shelov-Kovedyayev stressed in conclusion.

## Talks With Sweden on Submarine Incursions End

*PM2704101792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Apr 92 p 3*

[Interview with Captain First Rank Vladimir Vazhov by correspondent Captain Third Rank V. Maryukha; date, place not given: "Swedish Politicians' 'Periscope Disease' Is Treatable, but This Will Necessitate Declassification of Some More CIS Navy Documents"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Talks at expert level on alleged instances of violations of the border of Swedish territorial waters by Soviet submarines have ended in Moscow. Captain First Rank Vladimir Vazhov, who headed the work on our side, agreed to comment on the agreements reached for KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

[Vazhov] This was already the second meeting of experts and, although the talks are not yet over in principle, it can be said that a definite result has still been achieved. Because of the secret nature of a whole number of documents, for 10 years we were unable to refute the Swedes' charges against us of intelligence activities off their shores. But at this meeting, for the first time, we supplied Captain First Rank Emil Svensson, the Swedish prime minister's adviser on naval questions, with part of an operation order received by the commander of Baltic Fleet submarine S-363 (today it is possible to call it precisely this, and not just use the side number U-137) before putting to sea. The section which we opened up for the Swedes speaks of the cruise tasks and regions, which rule out intelligence activity off the coast, where a navigational accident occurred. The act of investigation, sailing charts, and extracts from the watch log were also produced. Nevertheless, the Swedish experts have so far refused to confirm the fact of an unpremeditated incursion into their territorial waters.

[Maryukha] Vladimir Ivanovich, did you manage to resolve complaints about any other incidents involving submarines in Swedish territorial waters?

[Vazhov] It was stipulated in advance that the meeting would discuss only the grounding of our submarine near Karlskrona naval base in 1982. During the talks, however, we submitted proof that no way could the Swedes have bombed our small submarines in the region of the southerly skerries of the Stockholm archipelago in 1988. At that time we simply did not yet have such vessels.

[Maryukha] And now we do?

[Vazhov] Yes, we do. It has been a rather unsuccessful attempt to create a multifunctional underwater craft. We showed the Swedes a great deal concerning these submarines, and work on declassification is continuing.

[Maryukha] What evidence do Swedish experts cite to confirm that our submarines violated their sea borders?

[Vazhov] The whole complexity of the talks consists precisely in the fact that they do not adduce any proof. They mainly use references to articles in the Swedish press, evidence from eyewitnesses who allegedly saw a submarine periscope... That is all. Our side has documents, theirs has only words.

I hope, nonetheless, that the meetings of experts will convince the Swedish Government that military people and politicians sought likely violators of their territorial waters (of course, if such violations really occurred) in a somewhat different area. For our part we are ready to gather together and open up a sufficient number of documents that can convince them that we have no interest in Swedish territorial waters.

## Kozyrev Continues Visit to Gulf States

### Meets Sultan of Oman

*LD2904205392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1954 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] Muscat April 29 TASS—"We admire Russia's example and are convinced that it will soon be a very powerful country," the Sultan of Oman Bin-Sa'id Qabus said said on Wednesday during a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

The sultan expressed satisfaction with the result of Kozyrev's visit to Oman, stressing that he was deeply and genuinely interested in developments in Russia.

Oman fully supports Russian reforms, he said.

Oman pursues a traditional policy, designed to live in peace with neighbors.

"This is why we pay much attention to resolving the Middle East conflict, we are satisfied with cooperation between Russia and the United States in approaching this problem and are certain that this cooperation can produce concrete results," he said.

Previous confrontational policies have led nowhere. The Arabs isolated themselves from the world and it is now clear that President Sadat's idea was a step in the right direction, a step to peace, he said.

In conclusion, the sultan of Oman said that his country, although small, is prepared to help Russian reforms. "The doors for cooperation with Russia are always open," he said.

### Comments on Ties With Gulf States

*PM3004082092 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 25 Apr 92 p 7*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by Bassam Kamal in Moscow; date not given]

[Text] [Kamal] How do you view the prospects for the development of Saudi-Russian relations?

[Kozyrev] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has tremendous economic resources, enjoys a prominent political position, and wields effective influence in the Middle East. We consider the resumption of diplomatic relations with the kingdom to be one of our most important recent achievements in our ties with the Arab world.

I am convinced that, with their huge resources, Russia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have vast scope for comprehensive cooperation based on mutual interests. Frankly, we view the kingdom as a major partner in Russia's development, and we hope to be able to consolidate our bilateral relations through joint efforts.

I am looking forward to my meeting with Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, which will be a great honor for me.

[Kamal] What issues will you discuss during your tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states which begins Saturday?

[Kozyrev] Our relations with most Gulf states are recent. We believe that there are now many opportunities for the development of these relations in various fields. I believe there are many issues worth discussing, particularly bilateral relations and the considerable investment opportunities now available in trade, economic, and financial fields. Russia is really interested in Arab investments and in the exchange of loans and technology. I believe that issues of security in the Middle East and the Gulf region will be of special importance in the talks.

[Kamal] How does Russia assess the issue of collective security in the Gulf region, and what role can it play in it?

[Kozyrev] We fully understand the Gulf states' desire to protect their territories against military adventures and aggression. They have taken a number of steps in this connection. Without going into details of that undoubtedly important issue, I will now state the following principled position: We believe that the security structure that has crytallized will serve the puprpose. Of course, the main security role must be played by the states of the region. That does not at all prevent close cooperation with influential states than can contribute to the security and stability of the Gulf region. I believe that the UN Security Council could play a useful role by participating in the defense of the region's security, particularly since it proved its effectiveness in practice during the Gulf war. Russia is prepared to cooperate, on a collective or bilateral basis, in the process of safeguarding the region's security.

[Kamal] How does the Russian leadership assess the Middle East peace process?

[Kozyrev] Regardless of the different positions of the parties taking part in the bilateral negotiations, the dialogue between the Arabs and Israel is under way. It can be said that the exchange of views on substantial issues has started, and this certainly is a cause for some optimism. I maintain, however, that the dialogue is still weak. In order for it to be consolidated and strengthened, it must be encouraged by the sponsors, and the parties directly involved must adopt responsible and realistic positions. The parties to the conflict, including Israel, must make some headway, regardless of what preceded this phase of negotiations.

We believe that the active participation of the GCC states in the peace process and in the multilateral negotiations is an important contribution to creating an atmosphere of trust and to promoting constructive dialogue in the Middle East.

### Yeltsin Orders Promotion of South African Ties

*OW2704131792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1245 GMT 27 Apr 92*

[By reporters M. Mayorov, I. Porshnev, and others from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin of Russia has issued instructions as to further steps to promote relations with South Africa. They provide for an official visit to be paid by President Frederick de Klerk on June 1-2.

Besides, Russia intends to invite the leader of the African National Congress of South Africa Nelson Mandela to come to Moscow in May as a guest of the President of the Russian Federation.

Following a trip to South Africa by a Russian trade delegation Russia's Foreign Ministry, Ministry of External Economic Relations, Ministry of Economics and other ministries and departments were instructed to draft agreements on economic, scientific and technical cooperation with South Africa to be signed during President F. de Klerk's visit to Moscow.

### Ambartsumov on Need for Change in Foreign Policy

*PM2404142892 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Apr 92 First Edition p7*

[Interview with Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations, by Vitaliy Buzuyev;

date and place not given: "We Have Driven Ourselves Into a Corner, So We Must Get Ourselves Out"]

[Text] Until very recently, it looked as if it was going to be far easier building diplomatic relations with the former Soviet republics than with Western countries. But life has overturned that assumption. The Russian Foreign Ministry's initial attempts to take an active stand have left many experts feeling disappointed. Why? I asked Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations.

[Ambartsumov] The young Russian Foreign Ministry appears to have taken the methods of dealing with capitalist countries evolved by the old Union department and projected them into a totally different sphere, the turbulent CIS. It is easy to continue the policy of disarmament and easing tension in relations with the West, because there is something to be continued. But totally different methods are needed for working with the CIS countries. Take negotiations, for example. I do not think they can be as "civilized" as our negotiations with Western countries; normal partnerships have yet to evolve within the CIS, and the compromises which Russia seeks to make are interpreted as a sign of weakness. Talks must have more of a "family" atmosphere about them, if you like. This does not mean, however, that dialogue within the "family" (we are not talking about Stalin's "family of peoples," of course) cannot be tough. Although it is bad when dialogue is reduced to a slanging match. It goes without saying that we have a right to expect greater firmness from our foreign minister when defending Russia's interests in the CIS countries and the interests of Russians who have become foreigners against their own free will. I think many people now realize that the previous foreign policy practice of Russia concluding agreements with the former Soviet republics was detrimental to the cause (the agreements were drawn up by the Foreign Ministry, incidentally). This is mainly because it did not resolve problems connected with the rights of our compatriots and our property. Russia concedes to its neighbors in everything nowadays, receiving nothing in return. The interests of our compatriots are being flouted. They are treated as second-class citizens: They cannot acquire property, and those who do not speak the language cannot get work. Of course, they themselves bear some of the responsibility for the fact that they have not learned Estonian or Lithuanian, for example, but the state in which they live cannot even provide them with textbooks and teachers.

[Buzuyev] Nevertheless, the Russian Foreign Ministry has recently been trying to catch up with events. Take Andrey Kozyrev's recent visit to Moldova and the Dniester region, for example....

[Ambartsumov] Talking about the Foreign Ministry trying to catch up with events, I am reminded of a recent joke which did the rounds among deputies after the U.S. secretary of state's lightning tour of the CIS countries. Question: Who is the CIS foreign minister? Answer: James Baker. It is a good thing, of course, that Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev made this trip. But I am not satisfied with the agreement which our minister signed in Chisinau with three other foreign ministers—Romanian, Ukrainian, and Moldovan. The document lacks balance. It does not consider the interests of another side involved: the Dniester region....

[Buzuyev] Incidentally, the leader of the Dniester Republic, Igor Smirnov, said recently that he cannot understand why Romania is taking part in the talks, while his republic is excluded.

[Ambartsumov] A perfectly valid complaint. Russia is certainly not obliged to recognize the Dniester region as a sovereign state, but it is nevertheless involved in the conflict. Azerbaijan recognizes that Nagorno-Karabakh is involved in the conflict over there. So why has our minister not secured similar recognition from Moldova? He has had the opportunity to do so, after all. The English political lexicon contains the concept of "bargaining," which translates rather crudely into Russian as "haggling." We really should have engaged in some haggling.

[Buzuyev] Why do you think that "haggling" would have been successful?

[Ambartsumov] About two weeks ago, some representatives of the Moldovan parliament arrived in Moscow. During talks with us, they agreed that the Dniester region should not only be given special economic status, but special political status as well. Admittedly, finding themselves under pressure, they later went back on this agreement. But another group of Moldovan parliamentary deputies visited us recently. We succeeded in drawing up a very balanced document in the course of an evening. I should point out in particular that it was signed by Russian deputies with the most diverse political views. It does not demand recognition for the Dniester region. It proposes special legal status for the region and speaks of the need to separate the hostile sides with the aid of 14th Army units. It looked as if the situation was no longer at a standstill. But then the Moldovan deputies received a telegram of disavowal from Mosanu, chairman of the Moldovan parliament in Chisinau. He said that the deputies did not have the authority to sign such a document. But what has it got to do with authority? The deputies had acted on the basis of their personal beliefs. It is not that Mosanu does not want a peaceful solution to the conflict. Of course not. But he is under a lot of pressure from ultranationalists and the People's Front. These forces are greedy for power, so they are counting on conflict. But it is worth taking a sober view of things: Even if Moldova merges into Romania, it simply will not be to its advantage to drag a "thorn in the flesh" like the Dniester region with it. I am convinced that a solution to the totally irrational Dniester conflict can be found. A "mere trifle" is required: Goodwill on the part of both sides involved in the conflict.

[Buzuyev] Another CIS country, Ukraine, is taking part in resolving the conflict in the Dniester region. I know that you have had a dialogue with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk. What is your opinion of this politician?

[Ambartsumov] Our paths crossed several days ago in Bonn, at a meeting of several European countries' prime ministers, prominent economists, and entrepreneurs. Kravchuk delivered the first report and I gave the second. The main thread of his report was that the formation of the CIS should be welcomed, but that Ukraine must be a completely independent state and not forgo one iota of its sovereignty. Spanish Prime Minister Gonzalez came up with a good response. He said that Spain cannot control all the processes taking place in the European Community and consciously delegates some of its rights to it. "How do you intend to become part of a united Europe if you refuse to forgo even part of your sovereignty?" Gonzalez asked. Kravchuk had no answer to this. Generally speaking, I must say that he feels he has more freedom abroad than at home, where he is forced to make concessions to national extremists. At the same time, Kravchuk is an intelligent and fairly flexible politician. In my opinion, he is open to dialogue and is prepared to make compromises.

[Buzuyev] Yevgeniy Arshakovich, please be frank: Do you believe in the durability of a formation like the CIS?

[Ambartsumov] No, I do not. Ideally, in my view, we should work toward recreating a confederation of states—albeit not the Soviet Union. Russia should have a leading function. After all, it is something bigger than the Russian Federation. And, moreover, objectively it is a world power.

[Buzuyev] But first the CIS must collapse completely. In your opinion, does that mean further disintegration is inevitable?

[Ambartsumov] I would like to remind you that all this began with the collapse of a great state—not with the disintegration of the CIS. I am more and more convinced that the breakup of the USSR was a totally ill-considered, irresponsible step. The politicians simply did not foresee the consequences, which will only accumulate. But that is the reality of the situation. Another reality is that it will be far harder getting out of the impasse alone than together. Several states are beginning to realize this, so unifying ideas are now being developed. Georgia and Armenia are drawn toward Russia. This coming together of the CIS countries is also inevitable because it is sometimes impossible to draw geographical or even family boundaries. During the collapse of the British and French empires, the mother countries were clearly separate from the colonies, which subsequently became independent states. But in our case everything is all mixed up together. It is another matter that the process of forming a new union will, unfortunately, not be painless.

## Gorbachev Visit to U.S. Criticized

*LD2904221292 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Commentary by Viktor Yenikeyev]

[Text] It has been announced in Moscow that former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will leave for the United States on a private visit on the 2 May. His trip will be culminated by a speech in the city of Fulton, where he will triumphantly proclaim the end of the Cold War. It was in this very city that Sir Winston Churchill announced the beginning of the Cold War in 1945. Viktor Yenikeyev has this commentary:

The schedule of Gorbachev's two week long stay in the United States is packed. It is not surprising because the trip's organizers include Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, George Shultz, Henry Kissinger and many other prominent Americans. Gorbachev will meet with businessmen, congressmen, religious leaders and even with President Bush and UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali.

It seems we should be happy for the former general secretary and president of the former Soviet Union. His name has gone down in history. He has earned honor, respect and the joy of informal visits with these famous people. There is however a big but.

Announcing the Gorbachevs' upcoming trip, "IZVESTIYA" included two pieces of information. The first was purely factual. The second concerned the many questions arising because of the trip. One of the them is, if the Gorbachevs are visiting friends, why do they intend to bring $5,000 a piece to dine and be photographed with them. Apparently, Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger are asking this question. The former ambassador to Moscow, Arthur Hartman, simply refused to be another sponsor of the visit. Another thought bears considerable political weight: Whether the White House wants it that way or not, Gorbachev's pompous reception sets him off again with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is also expected to meet with Bush this summer. This gains in importance since in a recent trip to Japan Gorbachev compared himself not very modestly to Charles de Gaulle, implying a possible return to power.

It is revealing that during his trips to Germany and Japan the former president placed financial guarantees for his lectures in top priority. This fact led to sarcasm in "PRAVDA" as well as in the Western press. It is understandable that the upkeep of his own foundation and his wife's habit of wearing the latest Western fashion demands great expenditures but there is another question: What is there new, practical, interesting or unexpected that Mikhail Gorbachev could say to his foreign listeners. His columns in the "NEW YORK TIMES" and "KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA" do not differ in either its [as heard] views or plays on words. "PRAVDA" was correct when it remarked with irony that as soon as the ex-president finishes this voyage he could tell his own people the truth about events in the Baltic states, about the bloodshed in Baku and Tbilisi and about the Chernobyl disaster. There are many who believe that Gorbachev's role in last year's August putsch is not yet completely clear.

It is said that politics can be dirty but it is surprising that the former president has managed to walk through fire, water and copper pipes [as heard] and not stain his image. But I am sure he won't talk about that during his speeches. By the way, the foreign press has remarked about the banality and superficiality of his speeches. That became evident when he was trying to keep pace with events happening against his will and, as many believe, in spite of it. In any case, it was Boris Yeltsin who was all the people's choice and who began the radical reforms in spite of Gorbachev's fierce opposition. If he would just tell about some of those efforts he strained in order not to allow reforms then Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan would be quite surprised at the inventiveness of their guest: A communist, socialist and democrat in one person.

## Federation Affairs

### Shakhray Heads Efforts To Revive Cossacks

*OW2804112892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1030 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The commission and working group formed under a decree of President Yeltsin to draft legislation on the rehabilitation of Cossacks has held its first official session in the Kremlin. Under the chairmanship of Sergey Shakhray it discusses land property, army service and self-government in areas populated by Cossacks.

Sergey Shakhray told journalists that it will be difficult to draft legislation therefore the commission and the working group are concentrating primarily on the drafting of presidential and government decrees stimulating the revival of Cossacks.

Mr. Shakhray was born and grew up in a Cossack community on the border of Stavropol region and Kabardino-Balkaria.

### Two Parties To Form Bloc of 'Centrist Forces'

*OW2904181092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1552 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Late May the democratic party "Russia" (DPR) intends to form a block of Centrist forces together with the Peoples party "Free Russia". Wednesday at a news conference in Moscow a member of the political council of the DRP [as received] Yevgeniy Malkin stated that this block is "to support stability in the society and oppose the left and right radicals". Ye. Malkin considers that the demands of the opposition "Russian unity" on the resignation of government, firstly, and of the democratic reforms movement on dissolution of the deputies corps, secondly, constitute the main danger to the economic reforms and to supporting the fragile balance of forces. "Implementation of their demands would have adverse effect on the democratic transformations being carried out in the country", Ye.Malkin said.

### Newspaper, 'Working Russia' To Cooperate

*PM2904151392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 1*

[ANI report under the "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" rubric: "Two 'Russias' Agree"]

[Text] A "roundtable" was held in the editorial office of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 27 April involving journalists from the newspaper and representatives of the Coordinating Council of the "Working Russia" movement.

It was agreed that the newspaper will reserve space on its pages to reflect the position of the "Working Russia" movement. In turn, movement members are obliged to help distribute the newspaper, the number of subscribers to which has fallen sharply.

### Trade Union Federation Defends Reforms

*OW2704141692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 27 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Moscow Federation of Trade Unions will not advance any demands during the May 1 manifestation which will take place in the Gorky park. Chairman of the Federation Mikhail Shmakov announced at a news conference on Monday [27 April] that the trade unions supported the government's economic policies and did not intend to turn the holiday into confrontation. He said, however, that the rising of prices on energy and fuel to the world level should be accompanied by wage increases, also to the world level.

According to the Federation, the minimal cost of the consumer basket in Moscow in April will amount to 3,500 - 4,000 roubles, whereas the average wage does not exceed 2,000. The federation believes therefore that the elimination of the disbalance between wages and the cost of living will lower the danger of social explosions.

Mikhail Shmakov believes that the Russian and Moscow leaders have been unduly criticized in recent months. The Federation campaigns for a constructive dialogue and for tackling labour disputes peacefully, he said.

## Shatalin Claims Bureaucracy Hampers Reform

*PM2904134692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 3*

[Article by Academician Stanislav Shatalin, president of the "Reform" Foundation, and Stanislav Assekritov, first vice president of the foundation: "The Civil Servant Can Wreck Reform Too"]

[Text] The government is down, but not out. On the one hand, for a certain period it has been given the opportunity to continue the reform according to its own scenario, adjusting certain elements, and that gives grounds to suppose that we will make progress. On the other hand, however, there are serious misgivings that the Yeltsin-Gaydar team, having boldly set about implementing bold and highly unpopular measures, will wreck its own good work. This could happen very quickly, and this, in our view, is why.

The success of any economic reform, especially one on an all-embracing scale, is determined by the extent to which the measures implemented are integrated, indissoluble, and interlinked, and—this is very important—on society's perception of the nature of the transformations. Reforms are always multifaceted and complex, they could be compared, figuratively speaking, to the well-known "Rubik's cube"—move one face, and the whole pattern is disrupted.

The Russian Government's program contains almost everything that requires radical transformations in order to stabilize the economy and enter the market. But unfortunately the program—the Russian Government's intentions—left out one pivotal element, namely restructuring of the structure of national economic management.

The problem of functional and sector management becomes particularly significant in the context of the development of market relations, and it cannot be left largely to look after itself, as has been done in Russia. It is, however, quite obvious today that not only does the government have no blueprint for the formation of a management system appropriate to a market economy, but it seems to us that it does not even have an adequate understanding of this important task. The reformers are right to identify the destruction of the administrative edict system and the absence of a new market system as one reason for the economic collapse. But who should be creating that new system? How can you expect effective macroregulation of processes if you do not even mention state levers of management?

Let us remind you that V. Pavlov, who was accused of suppressing reforms, presented to parliament an entire program—however one may assess it—for restructuring the organizational structure of management, stipulating specific stages and time scales for the abolition and transformation of ministries and departments, and argued that the formation of large sector-based concerns was the right approach. The total number of workers at all ministries, committees, and budget organs under the Cabinet of Ministers in the pre-August period of 1991 was 36,000, that is to say, taking into account the work begun by N. Ryzhkov to reduce the administrative apparatus, the total number had been halved. It should be stressed particularly that questions of improving the management structure were systematically studied by special government commissions, every possible option was thoroughly examined, independent expert groups were brought in, and the top people themselves played an active role in this.

And what have we got today? Who can offer professional justification for the unsystematic emergence of new management structures? There is a patent lack of a clear understanding of the eventual goal of all the mergers and transformations of ministries and committees. And there are plenty of illustrations of this. The Ministry of the Economy and the Ministry of Finance were combined, but no sooner had they changed the signboards when they were split up again. There was the same picture with the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. The decision on merging the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the KGB was protested. It cannot be ruled out that the Ministry of Trade and Material Resources will soon be broken up.

In March of this year G. Burbulis signed a resolution defining the staffing levels of the apparatus of Russian ministries and state committees. True, for some reason it does not yet include the main "giants"—the Ministry of the Economy, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Trade and Material Resources, Ministry of External Relations [MVS; possibly misprint for MVES, Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations], Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Science, Higher Education, and Technology, and many others that account for many thousands of people (doubtless that is why they are not on the list). But even this abbreviated list runs to 22,500 employees, and if the list is completed it will far exceed all the old Union quotas.

But that is not the main point. Who cares about staffing levels? In the end they are a product of the range of functions and tasks of the state apparatus, the way its work is organized, and the state's financial potential. Therefore we certainly do not see the reduction of the apparatus as an end in itself. The main point is that the organs of state management do not have clearly defined functions, often do not know what to do, do not have a common strategy of management reform, and feel as if they were "living out of a suitcase."

It is quite obvious that as we progress further toward the market, as self-government by the components of the federation grows stronger, and as the process of privatization of ownership develops more actively, so fewer centralized functions will remain for the republic organs of management; many of these functions will be transferred to local level, and some will disappear altogether. Horizontal management and economic ties crowd out vertical ties, which, in their turn, are replaced by the functions of analysis and prediction, coordination and monitoring, but certainly not directive, command, or distributive functions. Who, for instance, in this context, can explain why it is that having embarked on a path of developing private farming and a private sector in the countryside, we should maintain in the capital the 2,000-strong apparatus of the Russian Ministry of Agriculture (the USSR Ministry of Agriculture had a staff of 800)?

Experience shows that no organ of state management gives up without a struggle, the apparatus always tries to prove that it is essential, and goes on doing its old, no longer necessary work. This situation was described very accurately by French Prime Minister Pierre Mendez France (in 1954): "It is easier to remove the sultan of Morocco than to fire the lowliest police official." This seriously hampers the course of reform and adversely affects the public consciousness.

You would think that in the program of a reform government all this should disappear into oblivion—market relations are, according to its scheme of things, the sole regulator of processes. So one wonders, what is being shared out and distributed by 3,000 people at the Russian Ministry of Industry? And how many thousands at the Ministry of Trade and Material Resources? Formerly the Union Gosplan [State Planning Committee] used to allocate and calculate everything, down to the very last nail—the system required it. Now we have abandoned this, thank heavens, but the Russian Ministry of the Economy not only "swallowed up" the former Gosplan, but also preserved itself in its original form.

Maybe these monsters are helping the government to implement reform? Nothing of the kind! As far as we can see, they have stopped even bothering with the elementary distribution of normative and instruction documents. Ask any economic manager: Does he have at his disposal all presidential and governmental decisions, instructions from functional ministries, and clarifications or other consultative assistance from his own superior body? "No," will be the reply from one in every two enterprise leaders, to say nothing of private businessmen. This kind of information starvation, on the one hand, costs the commodity producer dear and erodes the legal basis of reform, and on the other, paradoxically, it seems to justify maintaining an army of civil servants on the central bodies.

Incidentally, talking about civil servants in the good sense of the word, it should be said that cadre support for reform is a major and important task. It is very regrettable that in the Russian Government plans this too takes a back seat. State structures have already lost a great many professionals of the highest caliber. The government itself, celebrating the August victory, labeled managers on Union organs as outcasts. Commercial organizations rapidly sized up the situation and bought up the best brains. For those who were left in the republic structures, conditions became worse, to put it mildly, and with the start of the frenzied growth in prices the apparatchiks began to focus their thoughts on looking for "income on the side": Extortion for services rendered became the norm.

When you analyze certain government actions you cannot help thinking that a number of the decisions seem to promote and encourage bribery and corruption. For instance, export licenses are issued not for a year, but quarterly, and export quotas are set not by a single responsible body, but by the Ministry of the Economy, the Ministry of Trade and Material Resources, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Fuel and Energy, the State Agrochemical Association, and so forth. The procedure for issuing registration and authorization documents to newly formed legal entities involves not only state services, but also members of neighboring cooperatives, who take "good" money for their services. And what about the issuing of several identical orders for the lease of the very same official premises!

The Russian president's decree on combating corruption is a typical "fig leaf" creating the illusion of effort. Not one norm in this decree brings us a single step closer to a squeaky-clean apparatus. The certification of state employees—we have seen it before; bans on receiving "rewards" for the execution of official duties—we have seen them before; the taboo on combining jobs—we have seen it before. True, there are two new things in the decree. The first is a ban on participation in the management of joint-stock companies even through a representative, which in practice means a ban on state employees buying shares at all. State apparatus employees and their wives will apparently be obliged to sell at a cheap price the privatization accounts which are to be opened for all citizens specifically for the acquisition of shares. And the second new thing is the submission, on being appointed to a leadership post, of a declaration of income, savings in the banks, and movable property and real estate. The only thing that is not clear is, who will receive preference—the candidate who is a beggar, or, on the contrary, the one who is a legal millionaire and does not need bribes?

There are fewer people all the time who are willing to devote themselves to the "tsar's service," and decrees like this will remove all desire to do so. Yet the state apparatus is necessary, and the state employee should not be ashamed of belonging to the category of civil servants. To this end, apart from adopting a special law on state employees, apparently in time they will come to revive the system of legal social privileges.

A civil servant's only "headache" should be over the task in hand, not over how to get the money to take his family on vacation in the summer. A Russian minister's salary today is just over 5,000 rubles [R], while a double room in the former Council of Ministers "Sosny" boarding house is R2,000 a day, and a dacha which was formerly rented by a Union minister for R300 a month has now been handed over to a private company for R3 million.

Who benefits from that kind of "social justice"? Or do some people naively think that all this "profit" has gone to help the needy?

The state should take care of the state employee, and that care should be genuine, not fictitious. The apparatus will only work like clockwork when it is devoted to the cause. Today what we have is "grandpa Krylov's quartet," where papers get lost, telephones are either always busy or else never answered, and visitors are kicked around like footballs from office to office. The ministers in the present government—amateurs at the apparatus game—are cut off from real life by this apparatus; they tell each other about the importance of the decisions they make, but unbeknown to them these decisions never get beyond the office, and there is no one to blame for this—accountability is spread around like watery porridge.

Apart from the Russian president's apparatus and the government apparatus, the Office of the Presidential Consultative Council has also been set up. And now the Presidential Advisers' Service has sprung up, with extensive powers too. Way back in 1869 a certain V. Bezobrazov, in his work "The Urals Mining Economy and the Question of the Sale of Treasury Mines," wrote: "The harm done by intermediate-level bodies in management is enormous, each one submits inquiries and collects information. The real work gets bogged down...Each body tries to present everything in the best possible light, and therefore not infrequently everything is fine on paper, while in reality the exact opposite turns out to be true." Very topical today!

All the aforesaid prompts our serious concern for the fate of reform, and also our conviction that without the creation of an organizational structure of management organs appropriate to market relations, without cadre support for reform and a change in the work style of the apparatus, all the activity of the reform government in the macroregulation of economic processes will come to nothing.

From this viewpoint we consider it necessary to:

define the functions whose centralization is necessary at the transitional stage, guided by the principle that it is not the management organ that generates the function, but the function that generates the organ;

form a government commission to draw up a new national economic management scheme;

draw up a program for the radical transformation and simplification of the structure of the governmental and presidential apparatuses;

accelerate the adoption of a law on state employees;

introduce a table of ranks in accordance with which social privileges for employees of the state management apparatus are established;

draw up a program of cadre support for reform;

check the legal basis of the functioning of sector-based concerns and associations formed earlier on the basis of Union ministries and departments to see whether their statutory tasks meet the demands of the market economy and antimonopoly legislation;

direct the struggle against corruption toward eliminating the deep-seated roots of its growth, and not against the actual employees of the state apparatus;

publish in the press the names, posts, and telephone numbers of leaders whose signature can decide questions of the registration of an enterprise, the issuing of export quotas and licenses and of certificates and licenses for the right to carry out certain types of activity, and the establishment of tax, currency, customs, credit, and other concessions for a specific legal entity;

not only to declare a ban on combining posts in the state service with posts in commercial and social organizations, but to exercise power against such persons, beginning with the topmost echelon—the apparatuses of the Supreme Soviet, the president and vice president, and the government (there are plenty of illustrations of this).

## Gas Price Increase Forecast for Early May

*LD3004095392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Text] The next increase in the price of gasoline will be on either 5 May or 10 May, asserts Viktor Kuznetsov, first deputy General Director of the Mosnefteprodukt Association on the pages of MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA. He links this to the growth of oil exports to pay for the USSR's foreign debt which has passed to Russia. Moscow consumes 7,000 tonnes of gasoline daily and is now on the verge of a fuel famine. This is the reason for the mile-long lines at gas stations, Kuznetsov noted.

## Censorship Reportedly 'Alive and Triumphant'

*PM2904091592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 28 Apr 92 p 4*

[N. Andreyev and G. Shvets report under the "Sensation" rubric: "Nikita Mikhalkov Speaks on Behalf of Spinsters. Again, as in the Recent Past, the Ostankino Television Company (Formerly Central Television) Has Run into a Boycott"]

[Text] Do the generals and marshals of censorship remain in television? Yes, according to Nikita Mikhalkov. We cite a statement by him: "My personal broadcast 'Crossroads' was not transmitted by the Ostankino Television and Radio Company's Channel One on 22 April. The broadcast was advertised and the press, radio, and television carried information on it. On 23 April I received a fax from the leadership of the 'Ekran' Association raising objections which are absolutely censorial, restrictive, and 'esthetic' in nature and inadmissible in regard to any broadcast, let alone a personal one. This convinced me once and for all that methods of 'neobolshevik' coercion against freedom of expression and individual opinion are 'alive and triumphant,' which I also attempted to say in my 'Crossroads' broadcast."

It is clear that Mikhalkov cannot do a walk-on part, he is used to dazzling his audience. At the news conference he said: "I do not promise you objective broadcasts. I never step out of the crowd on behalf of anyone or any group. But, if you will, as I was once dubbed the spinsters' darling, I agree to speak on their behalf."

We watched the program. We have comments and objections regarding it, comments and objections which are normal and legitimate regarding any program, up to and including soccer reports. The normal reaction of a viewer. But it is also normal that the maker of "Crossroads" should want an exchange of views between Metropolitan Pitirim and television announcer Tatyana Mitkova rather than a head-on clash. What happened was that Mitkova, with a mixture of mordancy and sweetness, had described Pitirim as a KGB agent (incidentally, is this always an indisputable sin?) without presenting any documentary evidence, clearly of the mind that her own telegenic personality made up for the system of proof. Mikhalkov arranged for her to appear on "Crossroads." Tatyana agreed. Naturally, she did not turn up. Mikhalkov made an amusing whodunit out of this story, which were the grounds for the leadership of the "Ekran" Association, G. Groshev and V. Shmakov, drawing the conclusion that "...The episode involving preparation for shooting the conversation which did not take place with Tatyana Mitkova is regarded as a piece of dramatization."

Another part of "Crossroads" was described by the leaders of "Ekran" in their letter to Mikhalkov as follows: "The episode containing the charge of political apostasy and hypocrisy against Gennadiy Burbulis is improper from the standpoint of journalistic ethics. If the vice premier is the 'topic,' it is treated superficially; if he serves as an example for the preceding discussion, this serious political charge 'for the sake of example' is doubly improper. Words can only be judged when they are acted upon. Do not take offence at us for this reminder."

One of the authors of this excoriation was present in the crowded hall. He conducted himself with dignity and explained to the assembly that they had offered Nikita Sergeyevich advice on how to "improve the broadcast" in a "gentle, comradely fashion" and that "this broadcast is not in the same position as others," that "breaches of production discipline" were noted during the shooting, and so forth.

Nikita Mikhalkov declared a boycott of the Ostankino Television and Radio Company for not airing his program, which is undoubtedly the best publicity for "Crossroads." Yes, different views on television esthetics are possible, as are differing creative views. One thing one would not wish is for a marshal's soft-leather boot to be raised over the heads...

## RIA-TV Head Cited on Takeover by State

*MK2504130592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Apr 92 p 5*

[Report by Petr Aleksandrov under "Story" rubric: "Nomenklatura TV Games? Burbulis Does 'RIA-TV' a Great Favor"]

[Text] As is known, in line with an instruction from First Deputy Chairman of the Russian Government G. Burbulis the property of the television structure of the former RIA NOVOSTI—"RIA-TV"—is being placed on the books of the Russian State and Radiobroadcasting Company [as published] (RTR). What have we here—the "swallowing" of a weaker rival by a stronger? A manifestation of monopolism on information? For the record: In 1989 the Politburo "invested" around $17 million in the development of television in its own propaganda "subsidiary"—the former APN, later IAN and RIA NOVOSTI. In terms of its technical equipment "RIA-TV" became the leading outfit not only in the USSR but also one of the "advanced" outfits in the whole of Europe. Its 1991 revenue totaled $1 million. Here is how "RIA-TV" reacted to the latest reorganization. Over to its general director, Sergey Skvortsov.

"It may seem strange at first glance, but we assess Burbulis's instruction as a blessing. This is the only opportunity to maintain the creative and technical potential of the former 'RIA-TV.' We found ourselves between the millstones of the shakeup and confusion which reigned over the attempts to make something 'civil' out of the Central Committee's former propaganda mouthpiece. The million that you mentioned—which, incidentally, disappeared into the overseas accounts of the USSR Bank for Foreign Economic Activity, along with the bank itself—was earned the 'primitive' way, by selling largely raw materials and services to Western television companies. But that path only led to a dead-end. Then we proposed an ethereal option—preparing our own programs for Russian television. In the last six months we have had airtime on RTR: twice a month on Tuesdays from 2030 hours until 1 AM. We have also exploited all our international contacts and obtained sufficiently interesting programs. But then following the recent liquidation of RIA NOVOSTI an attempt was made to return to the old concept of its television service's existence, repudiating its 'ethereal' option. Thus at the beginning of March we were disbanded.

"It should be noted that RTR were interested in us. We considerably enrich their airwaves with our programs. They have displayed wisdom and farsightedness: They are admitting us to the RTR setup not as 'poor relations' or 'destitutes.' They are not taking our equipment away from us for the needs of RTR, and they are contemplating establishing an autonomous creative subdivision on the basis of the existing package of our television programs and technical base."

FROM THE EDITORIAL OFFICE: The leadership of RTR has let it be known in an unofficial conversation that it does not go along with such high self-appraisal on the part of "RIA-TV," but it refrained from commenting.

## Grachev, Veterans' Leaders Discuss Disabled

*PM2704102992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Apr 92 p 8*

[Report by Veniamin Antsiferov: "Duty: Russian Army Helps Invalids"]

[Text] Yesterday Colonel General P.S. Grachev, first deputy commander in chief of the CIS Armed Forces and Russian first deputy defense minister, received V.S. Maksimov, president of the newly created War Invalids Aid Foundation and an invalid from the Great Patriotic War, and L.P. Mishustina, Russian Supreme Soviet deputy and member of the Foundation's council. They discussed problems of alleviating the military veterans' difficult lot, improving their medical service and supply of medicines, rebuilding hospitals, building a rehabilitation center for Afghan soldiers, and so on. They also resolved matters as regards organizing the shipment of humanitarian aid which Russian veterans have been offered by FRG public and state organizations and citizens—medicines, medical equipment, hospital property, food, and clothing. On P.S. Grachev's orders, the Armed Forces are to provide the foundation with free storage premises, motorized transport, and some other military property, both in the CIS Western Group of Forces in Germany and on the territory of the Moscow and Volga-Urals Military Districts.

"Concern for military invalids is our sacred duty," P.S. Grachev said. "And we begrudge nothing to ease their lot in our difficult times."

Foundation Chairman V.S. Maksimov cordially thanked him for this responsive reaction and considerable material support. On behalf of the veterans of the Great Patriotic War, he asked P.S. Grachev and L.P. Mishustina to consider the proposal to make Victory Day—9 May—the birthday of the Russian Armed Forces. Then these two historic events—the destruction of fascism and the birth of the Russian Army—will be linked together in our people's memory forever.

P.S. Grachev and L.P. Mishustina backed this proposal and promised to bring it to President B. Yeltsin's attention.

## Servicemen's Social Protection Fund Set Up

*PM2804121392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Apr 92 p 3*

[Correspondent Captain V. Strugovets report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "'To Defend Defenders of the Homeland'"]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Apr—These words, spoken by Metropolitan Pitirim of Volokolamsk and Yuryev at the launch of the "Soldiers of the Homeland" servicemen's social adaptation and protection fund, could very well be called the motto of this public organization.

The creation of the fund, as was stated at a news conference devoted to its inauguration, has largely been dictated by Russian President Boris Yeltsin's program relating to questions of social protection for servicemen, reserve officers, and members of their families.

Board Chairman Leonid Moskvin said that the basic aim of the fund's activity is to help mobilize the funds of state, public, and other organizations for the social adaptation of servicemen and members of their families, to protect their rights and freedoms, and to rally servicemen for establishment in a society of civil concord. In this connection the fund has decided to channel its primary assets, provided by its founders—the Russian State Committee for the Management of State Property, the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, the Russian Union of Veterans of Afghanistan, and the Humanitarian Academy of the Armed Forces—into training and retraining officers discharged into the reserve, providing them with work, and resolving the housing problem to a certain extent. These are not just promises. Some 150 servicemen discharged into the reserve have already acquired new specialties at the fund's expense, the construction of cottages has begun in the immediate vicinity of Moscow with the help of the Czechoslovak firm of "Ekotrend," and it is planned to set up an officers' joint-stock bank and a financial-trading company and a production-technical company for the production of consumer goods and foodstuffs.

In Moscow it is possible to call these numbers with questions concerning the fund's activity: 299-00-14 (extension A-86) and 202-22-06.

## Servicemen Polled on Social Issues, Leadership

*PM2204145092 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Apr 92 p 1*

[Unattributed report under the rubric "Through the Eyes of a Sociologist": "Will Starovoytova Be Minister of Defense?"]

[Text] The CIS Joint Armed Forces Center for Military Sociological, Psychological, and Legal Research has polled regular servicemen on their attitude to the sociopolitical and economic situation in society and the Armed Forces. The poll involved 1,100 officers and warrant officers of all branches of the Armed Forces and all categories of troops in garrisons in Moscow, Dushanbe, Kapustin Yar, Minsk, Murmansk, Omsk, Pskov, Perm, Rostov-na-Donu, Tambov, and Khabarovsk.

The results of the research indicate a negative attitude on the part of the vast majority of servicemen to the Russian Government's policy in the economic sphere.

Society's attitude to the Army was assessed positively on the whole by 80 percent of participants in the poll; 62 percent of respondents deem the possibility of a deterioration in relations between the command authorities of military units and local organs of power to be improbable. However, one in three officers (or warrant officers) notes the presence of conflict situations already, or the possible occurrence of such situations in the future (in February of this year this viewpoint was maintained by one-half of respondents). According to the poll data, there are no grounds for confirming the fears of leaders of some sociopolitical movements of the possibility of a military coup.

Among the factors capable of destabilizing the situation in society in the near future participants in the poll noted: the general decline in the living standards of the population—65 percent; deterioration of interethnic relations between the Russian-speaking and indigenous population—37 percent; the downturn in production—34 percent; disruptions in supplying the population with essential goods—32 percent; the rapid stratification of society into rich and poor—29 percent; and lack of trust in the current Russian leadership—28 percent (in February this year the figure was 34 percent).

The 10 most popular Russian politicians among servicemen were:
1. A. Rutskoy—61 percent
2. B. Yeltsin—34 percent
3. G. Yavlinskiy—28 percent
4. R. Khasbulatov—21 percent
5. A. Makashov—16 percent
6. V. Zhirinovskiy—16 percent
7. Ye. Gaydar—14 percent
8. V. Alksnis—13 percent
9. M. Gorbachev—5 percent
10. G. Starovoytova—5 percent

## Poll Shows 'Increasing Support' for Reforms

*LD3004092292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1535 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 29 TASS—Reforms pursued by the Russian Government find increasing support among professional servicemen, a senior officer told ITAR-TASS.

Sixty-six per cent of officers and NCO's in 10 garrisons in Russia support the government's privatization programme, an opinion poll conducted in April revealed, Lieutenant Colonel Fedor Makarov, department chief at the Center for Military-Sociological, Psychological and Legal Research, said.

75 per cent favored private land ownership and 69 per cent—privatization of housing. However, most respondents did not approve of the privatization of state enterprises and the liberalization of prices.

According to those polled, social tensions in society have subsided. 24 per cent of servicemen believe mass protests of the public are quite possible (in February 46 per cent said this). At the same time, the number of those who believe that this will not happen has grown from 37 to 46 per cent.

Officers and NCO's supported the decision to set up a Russian Ministry of Defence. However, 35 per cent of professional servicemen said they would like to retire from the Armed Forces in the next two years. 37 per cent of these are senior officers, 36 per cent—junior officers and nearly every third a NCO.

There were no changes in the popularity of political leaders, Makarov concluded. Most popular among soldiers are—Aleksandr Rutskoy—48 per cent, Boris Yeltsin—38 per cent, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy—21 per cent, Yegor Gaydar—18 per cent, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy—17 per cent, Ruslan Khasbulatov—11 per cent, Gennadiy Burbulis and Mikhail Gorbachev—five per cent each.

## Cosmos-2185 Launched From Baykonur 29 Apr

*LD3004084592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0840 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Text] Moscow April 30 TASS— A regular "Cosmos-2185" artificial earth satellite was launched on April 29, 1992, from the Baykonur cosmodrome by a "Soyuz" carrier rocket.

Installed on the sputnik is scientific equipment, intended to continue studies of the outer space.

The sputnik was orbited on the following orbit:

- initial period of revolution—89.4 minutes,

- maximum distance from the Earth's surface (apogee)—314 kilometres,

- minimum distance from the Earth's surface (perigee)—205 kilometres,

- orbital inclination—70 degrees.

In addition to scientific equipment, the sputnik is provided with a radio system for the exact measurement of orbital elements and a radio telemetric system for transmitting to the Earth data on the operation of its instruments and research equipment.

The sputnik's board equipment is functioning normally.

The coordination and calculation centre is processing the incoming information.

## Parameters of 'Resurs F-2' Satellite Noted

*LD2904143192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1406 GMT 29 Apr 92*

["Official—TASS headline]

[Text] [no dateline as received]—Another artificial Earth satellite, Resurs-F, was launched from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome by a "Soyuz" launch vehicle.

The satellite carries apparatus for taking multi-zonal and spectro-zonal photographs aimed at continuing research into the Earth's natural resources in the interests of various branches of the national economy, and the resolution of tasks of ecology and of international cooperation.

The satellite has been placed in orbit with the following parameters:

—Initial period of revolution—88.8 minutes;

—apogee—275 km;

—perigee—196 km;

—orbital inclination—82.3 degrees.

The apparatus on board the satellite is working normally.

On completion of the flight the exposed film will be handed to the "Priroda" [Nature] state scientific research and production center of the Russian Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources' Committee for Geodesy and Cartography for processing and subsequent distribution among its consumers of the information gained.

# Regional Affairs

## Yeltsin Continues Visit to Arkhangelsk, Plesetsk

### Cosmodrome Status Discussed

*PM2904114592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 1*

[Report by Colonel A. Belousov and Major A. Dolinin: "Could Plesetsk Become the Central Russian Cosmodrome"]

[Text] Arkhangelsk, Severodvinsk, Mirnyy, and Cherepovets make up the itinerary of the working visit to the northern cities of Russia by Russian Federation President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin which began 28 April.

That evening the president arrived at the Plesetsk cosmodrome in Mirnyy. This part of the tour is arousing special interest among the numerous representatives of the press who have gathered here.

The Plesetsk cosmodrome is not called a workhorse for nothing. Marshal of Artillery M.I. Nedelin was involved in its inception. The Cosmos-112 spacecraft was launched from here in March 1966. And since then spacecraft have been launched into orbit every year, month on month. It accounts for around 60 percent of all launches in the country. The series of Cosmos and Intercosmos satellites and the "Araks," "Porcupine," "Apex," and other missile programs have enabled scientists to carry out unique experiments in the sphere of space research and utilization for peaceful purposes. But manned spacecraft have never been launched from here. And journalists have been conjecturing that Plesetsk might be given the status of Russia's number one cosmodrome, from where manned spacecraft might also be launched.

However, in conversation with representatives of the president's administration your KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent ascertained that such conjecture is clearly premature. Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's work at the cosmodrome will be primarily that of familiarization, although the possibility of specific decisions being made regarding the northern cosmodrome cannot be ruled out.

The following is the opinion of Yuriy Nikolayevich Koptev, director of the Russian Space Agency:

"There is no point in raising the question of granting Plesetsk the status of the central Russian cosmodrome, one capable of replacing Baykonur, in the next five to six years. This is improper and unrealistic in view of the large costs and capital investments involved. Moreover, Baykonur alone is capable of delivering all kinds of payloads into geostationary orbit. Basic human practical sense and reason make you realise that if Baykonur is abandoned it will turn into a scrap metal dump. Kazakhstan does not have its own autonomous space and missile potential."

An agreement on space infrastructure was initialed by eight CIS states this week; it has been prepared for signing by CIS heads of state in Tashkent.

As far as the Plesetsk cosmodrome is concerned, it is intended to expand its activity in the light of certain advantages it has over Baykonur. The trends of upcoming space programs and the wishes and plans of Russia presuppose the further development of both Baykonur and Plesetsk.

It is expected that a meeting will take place in the garrison Officers' Club between the president and the inhabitants of the camp on the morning of 29 April; the president will then visit the block where spacecraft and delivery vehicles are assembled and tested, inspect mobile missile systems, and observe the launch of a "Resurs F-2" spacecraft, which is intended for national economic purposes. In the afternoon Yeltsin will leave for the city of Cherepovets. During his tour the Russian president is accompanied by Yuriy Skokov, secretary of the Security Council; Mikhail Maley, state adviser; Viktor Ilyushin, leader of the president's secretariat; and Vasiliy Barchuk, Russian Federation finance minister.

Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces; Andrey Kokoshin, Russian Federation first deputy defense minister; Army General Yuriy Maksimov, commander of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Strategic Forces; Colonel General Vladimir Ivanov, chief of space systems; and other military chiefs and officials also visited Plesetsk.

### Discusses Cooperation With Kazakhstan

*LD2904220192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The center of Russian politics moved to the north today, to Arkhangelsk Oblast, where there is land that has been Russian from time immemorial. The Northern Fleet is there, too, as is the military-industrial complex. So Big Politics is there, too. [video shows large limousine bearing a Russian flag passing over a train crossing]

[Voice-over by correspondent S. Slipchenko] The first thing the Russian president noticed in Mirnyy was the roads. Probably none of the big chiefs has come here for a long time, Yeltsin observed, although the roads had been covered with gravel the day before. [video shows Yeltsin emerging from the car]

During the rocket engineers' launch preparations, thousands of people gathered around the memorial dedicated to those who have died. There were flowers, the national anthem, and handshakes. [video shows Yeltsin and military officers laying wreaths]

On the next day journalists had virtually nothing to do. The three installations that Yeltsin was touring are the kind that are closed to the press, so we came here, to the launch pad, where the Resurs-2 satellite was being prepared for blast-off. [video shows rocket on launch pad]

A tragedy occurred on this very launch pad; in 1980, 57 people died here. President Yeltsin laid flowers at the site. We are gradually finding out about all the pages of space exploration, not just the bright ones.

The president arrived a few minutes before the launch. [video shows Yeltsin talking to correspondents]

[Begin recording] [Slipchenko] Does that mean that this place, Defense Ministry Test Site 53, will nevertheless be a cosmodrome, a Russian cosmodrome?

[Yeltsin] To make a real Russian cosmodrome here and to tackle the problems that are tackled at Baykonur but are not tackled here, some 10 billion rubles would have to be invested. At the moment, we are....

[Slipchenko, interrupting] Not ready.

[Yeltsin] Not ready. Not ready for that. Maybe later, when the economic atmosphere, the situation is better. There is a need to think it over. There are certain technical points here, since Baykonur is closer to the equator. Although, on the other hand, a number of points are, on the contrary, even....

[Slipchenko, interrupting] Better here.

[Yeltsin] Better here, since there is the northern angle of inclination and so on. So it does have its advantages, as it were. The site was not chosen fortuitously, of course, and in general the level of the equipment is high. We need to decide about Baykonur, though. Yesterday a satellite launch was stopped at Baykonur—our satellite for the military and the military of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, not just for Russia. It is our joint mission. But Kazakhstan has started to act up a little. They want to show that we need to have some kind of agreement between Russia and Kazakhstan on Baykonur. When I meet Nazarbayev on 15 May in Tashkent we will, of course, discuss the matter thoroughly. What will it be? We could have some kind of joint enterprise, or we can buy some part of the property, or share the financing. We (?would like) any suitable option.

[Slipchenko] A joint one?

[Yeltsin] Yes, a joint one. [end recording] [video shows rocket blasting off; Yeltsin is seen peering through binoculars, flanked by Air Force and Army officers]

[Slipchenko] Resurs-2 took nine minutes to go into orbit. After that the president continued to inspect the military hardware. According to experts, there was much that was new to him. President Yeltsin set off for Cherepovets in the afternoon.

### Space Research Secrecy Lifted

*LD3004092992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Text] Boris Yeltsin is continuing his trip to Russia's northern towns. He is currently in Cherepovets. Yesterday, he attended satellite launches at Plisetsk. Commenting on the conflict over the country's main cosmodrome, Baykonur, the president noted that the issue will be discussed on in Tashkent on 15 May and stressed that Russia is prepared for any suitable option.

Boris Yeltsin also stated that he had signed a decree lifting the seal of secrecy on 30 categories of space research issues.

### North Resources Noted

*LD2904122292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Interview with Russian President Boris Yeltsin by unnamed television correspondent at unidentified airport on 29 April; introductory paragraph read by announcer; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] The center of Rusian politics today has moved to the North. This has been Russian land since time immemorial; the Northern Fleet as well as the military-industrial complex are here, which also means big politics.

[Yeltsin] [video shows Yeltsin talking to correspondents at unidentified airport] Unfortunately, I did not know just how rich the land of Arkhangelsk is. That is, I knew there was oil, bauxites, diamonds, and so on. However, the prospects, the volumes—this could end the question of bauxite supplies from Guinea. Instead of Guinea, Arkhangelsk Oblast—we can organize production here; moreover, using the opencast method, we could build a railway and work on aluminum.

We are now dealing with the diamond problem—we must support this, all the more so since these are 50 percent jewelry quality, which is most rare. Ten percent is thought to be not bad, and here we have 50 percent. The problem of oil and gas, of which there are very great reserves....[Yeltsin changes thought] Further, we have development of the port—this currently is a most topical problem for Russia in connection with Ukraine, and the fact that we are losing our position there for the time being. We must develop rapidly somewhere, and we only have the North and the Far East to develop.

[Unidentified correspondent] Boris Nikolayevich, can we talk in the long-term about some kind of more intensive investment by the state in the economy of Arkhangelsk Oblast?

[Yeltsin] We could give greater allowances for people to stay here; nonetheless, it is for us to provide for ourselves, because the whole idea of the market is decentralization, and centralized capital investment will be falling in the future, not increasing. So, we have to recoup for ourselves. However, now, at the initial stage, we have to give startup help, we understand that.

## Military Enterprises Considered

*PM2904135792 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 1*

[Report by V. Karkavtsev: "Yeltsin in North"]

[Text] Fences were not painted, potholes in the roads were not filled—there is a shortage of paint and cement. All that was done was to sweep the main street in Arkhangelsk and dry out a huge puddle beside the airport building. Quite right, too: What is the point of putting on a show when the Russian president's main interests lay not in Arkhangelsk, but in Severodvinsk and Mirnyy—where the military-industrial complex reigns supreme.

Yeltsin, meeting with journalists at the airport in the morning, did not even conceal this when he said that the military outpost of Severodvinsk is Russia's national asset and its pride. He also announced that he was traveling to the north also in order to check the amendmends of the reforms with the people.

Such a "check" took place at the very first store he visited. The president decided to stop and, in the best traditions of the perestroyka years, took himself to the people. Boris Nikolayevich carefully asked the prices of produce in the store, found out about the commercial surcharges, the fat content of dairy products, and learning that there were problems with black bread turned to the local administrators saying: "Just hang on..."

The city of Severodvinsk, whose enterprises build and repair submarines, has gotten into a most difficult situation as a result of political lurches and empty debates on conversion. There are no orders for their "products," there are no raw materials, there are no wages. The specialists have set off in search of a better deal. In the meantime, Russia has lost all its surface ship building plants. In recent months the best minds have been attracted here to devise a unique program whose essence is to give the city the status of Russia's center for the building of nuclear vessels—not just submarines but also surface ships.

Judging by Yeltsin's statements, he is prepared to support this program: "We will stop producing submarines [lodki] at other plants, and concentrate this sector in your city. Two documents on Severodvinsk have already been signed, we will have another discussion today, maybe a third one will appear." It is unfortunately impossible to say anything about the results of this discussion—it took place in the Northern Machine Building Enterprise behind closed doors, and journalists were not admitted. As he had done in the morning, when he drove through Arkhangelsk without stopping, the president returned to the airport from whence his itinerary took him to the Plesetsk space center. Today the artificial satellite "Resurs-F" is being launched here. The question whether it is possible to "scale up" this space center into a Baykonur will be decided.

I try to compare the president who made the journey along the Volga in January with the president today. At that time, I recall, he was afraid of rotten eggs being thrown at him by the crowds and repeated this endlessly. Today he is confident and assertive when talking to the people.

## Background to Attempted Checheniya Coup Viewed

*924C1271A Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Apr 92 p 2*

[Article by Aleksandr Aleshkin, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent, Groznyy-Vladikavkaz: "Coup Attempt in Chechnya: A Wolf at Bay Is Unpredictable"]

[Text] **Afterword to the Event**

The attempted coup in Checheniya, about which the central mass media have been warning for a month, has occurred. The forecasts were most radical: The opposition has support in the midst of the people. The days of General Dzhokhar Dudayev are numbered. And so the skirmish, in the main, has passed. Outwardly everything remained in its place: As before, D. Dudayev occupies the luxurious office of D. Zavgayev, the former first secretary of the reskom [republican committee] of the CPSU, and the opposition has returned to its main positions—in Nadterechnyy Rayon. This is the patrimonial Zavgayev domain, which is called the stronghold of the opponents of the current regime.

Supporters of D. Dudayev are experiencing a certain euphoria. The sally of the opposition, as they see it, only confirmed the correctness of their cause, and the "putschists" themselves only caused the worthy people to laugh at how completely estranged they were from them. With its transience and relative peaceableness, the so-called coup falls vaguely within the framework of this genre, where a struggle usually goes for broke.

The events unfolded this way. Early on the morning of 31 March, several dozen armed people arrived at the building of the Groznyy television center in buses. They were in civilian clothes, and they wore white arm bands (apparently so that in the event of an armed clash they could distinguish "their own"). They proposed to several of Dudayev's guardsmen, who were guarding the building, to abandon it. The guardsmen did not obey. Opening fire on the building with a large-caliber machine gun mounted on a light tank, the putschists occupied the television center. A little later, in approximately the same scenario, they seized the House of Radio.

D. Dudayev, desiring to avoid bloodshed, sent the elders to the television center for negotiations. But they came under fire, and one of the elders was killed in the process. The guardsmen had to return fire. They soon got back the television center. Fortunately, with little blood: The number of killed—five or six persons. The opposition is not reporting its losses. The House of Radio was retaken, it can be said by peaceful means, at about six o'clock in the evening.

I arrived in Groznyy on the following day. After hearing the alarming news the evening before, I was very much and pleasantly surprised by the atmosphere that reigned in the capital of the republic. There was absolutely no sense of "emergency" in it. The stores and markets were working—there was the usual spring animation in the streets, the faces of passersby were calm and friendly, and there were no armed people, of whom there have been quite a few of late.

Yuriy Tsopanov, sitting behind the wheel, was the guarantor of safety for the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent. He was a member of the leadership of the People's Party of Russia and a member of the parliament of the Confederation of Mountain People of the Caucasus. He held an identification paper under a green cover in readiness that was signed by Musoy Shanibov, president of the confederation, whose name in Checheniya serves as a password of trust. But I did not have to show my red "bolshevik" or my green Muslim identification. Our car reached the center of Groznyy, Freedom Square, without any difficulty. Here at the parliament building and the general's residence there were 200 to 300 persons. This is almost nothing considering that even for less significant reasons a sea of people throngs the square.

On the other hand, the internal premises of the government building were reminiscent of Smolnyy in October of 1917. Dirt, clutter, corridors filled with unshaven and tired people who were armed to the teeth. Young people in jeans and "Adidas," former "afgantsy" [veterans of the war in Afghanistan] in spotted field uniforms, men in military duffel coats...Documents are checked carefully. It is not possible to search someone from the leadership of the republic. The large guard detail either does not really know on what floor or in what office the leadership is located, or it knows and will not say: What if suddenly there is a spy?

Finally, we were able to meet with Husayn Akhmadov, the chairman of parliament; Usup Soslanbekov, chairman of the committee on foreign affairs of the parliament of the Chechen Republic (and concurrently chairman of the parliament of the Confederation of Mountain People of the Caucasus); Shamil Veno, minister of foreign affairs; Movladi Udugov, minister of information and the press, and other figures from Dudayev's close circle.

This is their assessment of what happened. The party nomenklatura that was removed from power in September of last year attempted to accomplish a coup, "with the support of the imperial structure of Russia." The time that was chosen for the putsch was not accidental. It was timed for 31 March, the day of the signing of the federative treaty. According to the scheme of the Moscow producers, my interlocutors contended, the putschists were supposed to seize the parliament building and hole up in it at any price for several hours. Then a delegation of "legal authority," headed by Zavgayev, would fly in from Moscow; it would quickly sign the treaty and ask for Moscow's help. Further, everything was according to a well-known plan. Substantial military formations of the CIS were already standing along the border of the ChR [Chechen Republic], ready on the first order to move on Groznyy. But through the clear actions of the president and his team, and also owing to the support of the people, the intentions of the opposition were frustrated.

The version about the treachery of "imperial forces" and about the alleged planned invasion by CIS troops into the territory of sovereign Checheniya cannot be refuted or proved. History knows of assemblies of rulers who, unable to resolve their own difficulties and contradictions, blamed all troubles on an external enemy.

But what is true is true: The Chechen people supported D. Dudayev and the parliament. But, to be entirely accurate: The people did not, with arms in hands, support the opposition. Considering the economic ruin, impoverished people, and criminal excesses, the opposition obviously counted, so to speak, on the support of the broad masses. But the masses remained unresponsive to the fast-moving events in Groznyy. Why?

The Chechen people suffered grievously from tsarist rule and from totalitarianism. It wants freedom, and it wants to separate from Russia. And this idea of national freedom is firmly associated with the name of Dzhokhar Dudayev.

In a crowd of ralliers, I talked with dozens of people, asking them one and the same question: Why are they here, what are their feelings toward Dudayev, and toward the opposition? The answer was the same: The putschists are overthrown partocrats who are once again striving for power, for a sine cure; Dudayev was elected by the people almost unanimously, and Checheniya will not allow anyone to get rid of their president. (Many even said this: "Checheniya is not Georgia. The Georgian variant will not occur in Checheniya.")

Does this mean that the presidential chair is reserved for D. Dudayev? That he is not making mistakes that could give the opposition a chance to remove him by constitutional or armed means? By no means. There are more than enough reasons for dissatisfaction with the policy of the present authorities in the republic.

First of all, of course, is the economic dislocation and the impoverishment of the people. I will not start to cite numerical calculations—this is a truth, unfortunately, that does not require proof. People are living poorly now not only in Checheniya, but in all Russia. So then, should everyone grab a "Kalashnikov" and assault the television center? Especially since the government is not asleep and is persistently seeking ways to pull out of the crisis.

The inhabitants of the republic are being panicked by the growth in crime. The criminal chronicle abounds with all kinds of law-breaking: Murder, rape, robbery, armed skirmishes of mafia clans, and kidnapping of people.

The extent to which the criminal elements have become insolent is indicated by this incident. At the motor vehicle station "Yuzhnaya," the GAI [official automobile inspection] arrested S. Varayev, the driver of a "Zhiguli," confiscating a Kalashnikov assault rifle. Next morning, his friends from the village, in their own two infantry combat vehicles, came to the Oktyabrskiy Rayon militia office. To rescue him!

The coup attempt at the time bore a purely Chechen nuance. Only Chechens took part from either side.

After the proclamation of the sovereignty of the Chechen Republic, the position of the Russian-speaking population (about 300,000) became more difficult. It must be said right off that the Chechen people are friendly by nature, and they have not displayed any persecution and oppression vis-a-vis the Russians. When something does happen, it is on a mundane basis, in individual cases. The authorities strive to avoid confrontation, and they are doing everything so the people live and work in peace. But every national movement has its own inexorable logic: Whether the leaders want this or not, but, in broadening the rights of their own people, they, like it or not, infringe on the rights of others.

But the result? Many Russians are leaving Checheniya. Some of them simply out of fear of the complexity of the situation, and out of fear for their children, relatives, and friends. But some are not convinced that they will be able to realize their capabilities. There are 41 deputies in the parliament of the Chechen Republic. And only one Russian. One out of 300,000...

There is also one more important aspect which multiplies the ranks of the opposition: the style of work of D. Dudayev and influential people in his circle. This is the syndrome of neo-bolshevism, intolerance toward different thinking—precisely that against which the current leaders of Checheniya themselves fought so fiercely.

Mustafa Edilbiyev, a writer, especially talked about this: "The stereotype of neo-bolshevik thinking still prevails over the leaders of our so-called national-liberation movement. What puts one on guard is their unscrupulousness in selecting means to achieve an end, the exploitation of the basest instincts of the crowd, that is to say, of the 'Sharikov's' and, finally, the principle: The one who is not with us is against us—he is our enemy...A group of persons, who exploit the idea of national revival, usurped authority...Only through a referendum should we make a determination with respect to Russia and with respect to one or another power structure."

Intolerance and voluntecrism lead to permanent squabbling in the higher echelons of power. Yaragi Mamodayev, who until recently headed the committee for the management of the economy (now dissolved), accuses the parliament and its chairman of bankruptcy, demanding their reelection. Umar Avturkhanov, the mayor of Nadterechnyy Rayon, who believes that the time of D. Zavgayev and the "Zavgayev" region have moved into the irretrievable past, is also "extremely dissatisfied" with D. Dudayev: "With whom did he surround himself? The people, after all, are not blind, and they comprehend people and the results of their activity. We have succeeded in convincing ourselves of the inability of the leadership to function."

Among the opponents are also those who came into the political arena, counting on obtaining a soft position under the new arrangement of power, but they did not get it.

Dzhokhar Dudayev did not receive me until midnight. I had to sit around a long time in his reception room, which was filled with people. But this was not a waste of time. Life in the reception room was "in full swing." About three dozen young people armed to the teeth—the "presidential guard"—were conducting themselves quite naturally, like real masters of the situation. But the main thing is that they handled weapons very easily (everyone has something different): They click the bolts and aim. If necessary, they would fire.

There is a large group of visitors—emissaries of the republics of the North Caucasus along the line of the Confederation of Mountain People. They want to tell Dudayev personally that they will support Checheniya in the event of intervention by Russia.

There is a resounding shot on the floor. Half of the guards dash from the spot into the corridor, clicking their breach mechanisms. They returned after several minutes: Nonsense, an accidental firing. "Correspondent" (this is for me). I approach the door. "Hands!" "What?" "Hands!" "Ah, Yes..." I raise my hands. The guard frisks me professionally.

At one time the challenge red banner of the CPSU Central Committee hung over the massive secretarial desk. Now on the wall there is a green-white-red flag with the figure of a lone wolf under a moon in the top corner—the symbol of Chechen statehood. The host invites me to a guest journalist table on which two cups of coffee are steaming. He looks extremely tired: Behind him are two sleepless and terribly tense days. But he spoke, as always, with enthusiasm and conviction:

"More than anything in the world, I do not want the curses of Russian mothers, Russian women, fiancee's, and children on my head. I do not want to go to war with Russia, and my people do not want this. But let Russia also not interfere in our affairs. We will take care of things ourselves in our own homes. Well, if...the Chechens are ready to die as one for their freedom."

It is this main idea that I want to bring to the reader: It is very good that the situation in Groznyy normalized quickly. This is a blessing not only for the Chechen people. This is also a blessing for Russia. The North Caucasus is filled with all kinds of weapons, except perhaps for nuclear weapons, and it is like a powder keg.

And lastly. Negotiations started in the middle of March in Sochi between governmental delegations of Russia and Checheniya. Their continuation has been carried over to the end of April. It would be a big mistake to freeze the negotiations and to play some kind of a diplomatic card: Will Dudayev keep his chair, or will he not keep his chair?

A lone wolf under the moon who finds himself in a desperate situation is unpredictable...

## Newspaper Given Official Status, Name Change

*OW2804222192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1857 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [28 April] Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev signed a decree granting the newspaper "Ichkeriya" the official status. He cited the need "to inform more fully Chechen citizens about the official state policy, explain government's steps within the republic and abroad, etc."

The Cabinet was ordered to give the newspaper necessary material, technical and financial means. Previously, the newspaper was called "Caucasus", but a few days ago it changed the name.

"Ikcheriya" is the historic name of Chechen mountain regions. A month ago another main newspaper "Golos Checheno-Ingushetii" (Voice of Checheno Ingushetiya") refused to receive the official status.

## Firearms Confiscated in Chechen Republic

*LD2404153792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1800 GMT 23 Apr 92*

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Groznyy—Over the two weeks of its existence, Checheniya's Security Ministry has confiscated more than 1,200 firearms from various armed groups and individuals in the republic. This was announced on April 23 by Checheniya's Press and Information Minister Movladiy Udugov, who also said that the weapons had been confiscated in line with President Dudayev's decree of March 25, prohibiting the carrying of arms in public. The confiscated weapons have been transferred to the Security Ministry, national guards and national army units.

Udugov also pointed out that the weapons had for the most part been seized from the opponents of the present regime and that they had received them on the eve of the March 31 coup attempt, along with 50,000 rubles in cash issued by the coup organizers. According to investigation agencies, 62 men were directly involved in the coup attempt, 12 of whom are now in custody. One of them, whose name is not disclosed, has been charged with high treason under Article 64 of the RSFSR penal code. An intensive search is underway for the other participants in the coup attempt.

Mansur Tagirov, chairman of the Investigating Commission, said former Deputy Justice Minister of the Chechen Republic, Vladimir Gorodov, who had earlier worked as deputy head of the CPSU regional committee's administrative department was arrested a few days ago. During a search of his apartment, some 10,000 rounds of ammunition for the Kalashnikov submachine gun were found, as well as 8 firearms and shot guns, 1 RGD-5 hand grenade, 5 walkie-talkies (two of them Italian-made), 1 pistol, 1 flare rocket, smoke-boxes, flare pistols, daggers, a pair of binoculars, optical sights and explosive devices. As a result of a search of his son's apartment, who is an officer of the Chechen Interior Ministry, now wanted by the police, a case full of blanks of permits to store and carry weapons was found.

## Tatarstan's Ethnic Russians Want Treaty Signed

*OW2904150192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Representatives of the Citizens of the Russian Federation movement and of the Soglasiye (Accord) multi-ethnic movement of Tatarstan held a demonstration in Kazan under the motto "Sovereign Tatarstan in a Democratic Russia". The demonstrators carried the Russian tricolor and demanded that Tatarstan join the federation treaty and stop the disintegration of the Russian Federation, and protested against the opening of Tatarstan's missions in the CIS states and abroad, and against the appointment of the heads of administration on an ethnic basis.

Aleksandr Salagayev who represents the Citizens of the Russian Federation movement told IF [INTERFAX] that the growing activity of the national-separatist forces impels those sharing different views to take return measures. He noted that the parliament of Tatarstan, as well as the president, who have assumed a centrist position, should heed the voice of many people who consider themselves citizens of Russia and who campaign for the Russian Federation's integrity and democratic renewal.

## Support for Tatarstan's Sovereignty Falling

*LD2904175392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1745 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Kazan—Tatarstan's republic's Supreme Soviet's Narodovlastiye deputy group coordinator: Republic's population's support of Tatarstan's sovereignty declaration is not so unanimous as Tatarstan's republic's leaders like to announce. Valentin Mikhailov, Tatarstan's republic's Supreme Soviet's Narodovlastiye deputy group coordinator, further told PF [POSTFACTUM] that a poll held by the Public Opinion Research Center (VTSIOM) and the Sociological Laboratory of Kazan University in December 1991 has shown that consciousness of the Republic of Tatarstan's peoples has considerably changed. According to the poll, in December 1991 the share of those who support the declaration has decreased by 10 per cent as compared to the corresponding period of 1990 (from 62 to 52 per cent), whereas the share of those who do not support the declaration has increased by 14 per cent (from 20 to 34 per cent). Mikhailov underlined that whereas in 1990 74 per cent of Tatars expressed their support of the declaration and 51 per cent of Russians (a difference of 23 per cent), in 1991 the figures were 84 and 23 per cent, respectively (a difference of 61 per cent). According to Mikhailov, the poll results were not told to the authorities and public during the preparation period to the referendum in the Republic of Tatarstan.

## Krasnoyarsk Plutonium Production To Cease

*PM2704130692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Apr 92 Moscow Edition p 1*

[Report by Yuriy Rogozhin: "Stopping Reactors in Krasnoyarsk"]

[Text] A collegium session was held at the Russian State Committee for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety 17 April. It was attended by specialists from the Ministry of Atomic Energy, State Counselor A. Yablokov, and people's deputies who are members of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Ecology Committee.

The operation of the two industrial nuclear reactors sited near Krasnoyarsk and designed to produce weapons-grade plutonium was discussed. The academics were particularly concerned about the fact that these reactors are directly cooled by water drawn from and then returned to the Yenisey.

It was noted that, despite the relatively reliable operation of these reactors, the very principle of their operation breaches the recently adopted Law on the Protection of the Environment. On this basis and given the lack of any need to process plutonium, the collegium decided to shut down the first industrial reactor as of 1 June and the second no later than 1 September this year.

## Krasnoyarsk Wants To Reuse Former Radar Site

*PM2704115492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 8*

[Report by Aleksey Tarasov: "Demolition of Krasnoyarsk Radar Station Buildings Suspended"]

[Text] Krasnoyarsk Kray—A. Veprev, head of the Krasnoyarsk Kray Administration, has ordered the suspension of the demolition of the buildings of the former Krasnoyarsk Radar Station.

Army subunits began demolishing the radar station in 1989 at the decision of the USSR leadership with a view to fulfilling the 1972 ABM Treaty. The U.S. Administration insisted on the destruction of the Krasnoyarsk Station at a time when it was still impossible to imagine that the communist regime would fall so rapidly. Otherwise it is possible that agreement might have been reached with the U.S. side not to destroy this strategic installation deep in Siberia so barbarically, completely demolishing it.

Today three- and five-story ruins are all that remains of the massive structure. Its equipment and apparatus have been wholly dismantled. Essentially, this missile early-warning installation no longer exists.

The inhabitants of the formerly secret Yeniseysk-15 and nearby settlements not only asked the Russian president for a halt to the destruction of the lower levels of the radar station buildings—which could be used for economic purposes—they also wrote to George Bush.

The request submitted to the Russian president by A. Veprev helped. It states that the issue could be discussed as a preliminary measure at the forthcoming meeting of Russian and U.S. foreign ministers. The Krasnoyarsk Kray leadership's assessment is that the abandonment of the further demolition of the station buildings would make it possible to save around 200 million rubles' worth of capital investment for the national economy.

Only if the U.S. Administration agrees to the handover of the impressive ruins for civil purposes. Will we profit from these millions? It seems that what has been saved from "disarmament" may simply be looted. The radar station buildings have now moved from one monopoly (the Defense Ministry) into the hands of another—the "Sibirenergo" TEO [fuel and energy association] Joint-Stock Company. The energy workers have plans to site a furniture factory and a joint silk production venture with the Chinese here. But so far this has not been allowed and the former military installation is being used in the traditional way in the national economy—today in Yeniseysk-15 you can exchange any construction material for a bottle of vodka. In summer, when the roads allow, everything of value will be finally taken away.

I recently talked with the leaders of the Krasnoyarsk Kray Union of Entrepreneurs. They believe that the former radar station and the settlement attached to it constitute an area where new life could begin for the entire Yeniseyskiy Rayon. All the conditions for this are in place—good water supply, good communications, and buildings suitable for industrial production. There is something else to attract people too—empty housing, a kindergarten, and schools. The Yenisey is alongside. According to the specialists the microclimate is beneficial.

## Tyumen Oblast Stops Payments to Federal Budget

*PM2704114492 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Apr 92 p 8*

[Report by correspondent Vladimir Yefimov: "Charity Begins at Home"]

[Text] Tyumen—The Tyumen Oblast Soviet Presidium has decided to suspend contributions to the federal budget in order to finally patch up its own. This step was dictated primarily by a lack of sources of finance for urgent measures and the heavy credit debts of institutions in the social and culture sphere. At the request of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, Igor Pustovit, head of the administration of Tyumen's Kalininskiy Rayon, commented on a situation which deputies have acknowledged to be an emergency. He noted that 70 percent of the local budget revenue comes from income tax. With the adoption of the Law on the Fundamentals of Tax Policy in the Russian Federation, the local budgets were also deprived of this source of income. Yet it is necessary to maintain schools and kindergartens, roads and housing, to subsidize municipal services, and to help the needy. At whose expense? Enterprises would gladly finance social programs, but they can hardly make ends meet themselves. And subsidies from the federal budget still have to be "squeezed" out. It is for this reason that the idea of the territorial organs of power retaining the sums from taxation appealed to the deputies. However, as the decision points out, this is a temporary measure—until the government and parliament have removed the imbalance between the oblast's expenditure and its income.

## International Affairs

### Kravchuk on U.S. 'Constructive Line'

*OW2904172992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1522 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk said at a Kiev press-conference Tuesday [28 April] evening that that the USA "had taken a constructive line vis-a-vis Ukraine, though earlier its course was different and the republic was seen as being in the orbit of Russian foreign policy. According to the president, this radical change is explained by the fact that Ukraine wants to become both an independent and democratic state. Another factor is the big Ukrainian community in the USA. Kravchuk said that during the May 5-11 visit to the United States, it was planned to sign a bilateral trade treaty and other documents. The Ukrainian president will visit Washington, New York, Houston, Philadelphia and Iowa.

Touching on the withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons from Ukraine, Kravchuk said that its suspension was due to the fact that Ukraine needed to establish control over the process without changing the principal concept of a nuclear-free state. According to Kravchuk, it was due to Ukraine's position that the agreement was signed with Russia on control over the destruction of nuclear arms, and "this is why its withdrawal from the Ukrainian territory is continuing." Ukraine, emphasized the president, insists on control of the nuclear button, i.e., the nuclear weapons stationed on its territory. He said that the START treaty should be ratified by all the four republics having nuclear weapons - Russia, Ukraine, Byelarus and Kazakhstan. According to the treaty, Ukraine was to lose nuclear arms, which, Kravchuk said, jeopardized its national security, considering the "territorial claims of Russian to Ukraine, the Moldova conflict and a number of other problems."

Kravchuk touched on the problem of the Crimean referendum, the decision on which is expected to be taken on May 5 session of the Crimean Supreme Soviet. He said, "I am convinced that if the Crimean parliament decides on a referendum, the referendum will split the Crimea into two parts and further mount tensions. I'm opposed to the referendum. I have information indicating that the northern district of the Crimea, i.e., the 5 districts concentrating the bulk of its agricultural potential. In case of the referendum, they will hold a referendum of their own to remain part of Ukraine. Other regions of the Crimea are also ambivalent. This sets the stage for serious differences between the Crimea's political forces, and the Crimean people pose as hostages to these differences. We want peace and stability in the Crimea and we'll do all we can for that."

### Kravchuk Views Talks on Black Sea Fleet

*OW2904142992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Leonid Kravchuk said during the press conference in Kiev on Tuesday [28 April] that the Russian-Ukrainian talks in Odessa on the future of the Black Sea Fleet, which are expected to begin on Wednesday afternoon, are to give an answer to the following cardinal question: What concept and principles will be behind a bilateral agreement.

He expressed the opinion that the Odessa talks will not produce any specific document. They will only draft general approaches to the solution of this acute problem, he said. Ukraine has the right to have a fleet of its own. This claim, he said, derives from the provisions of the Minsk agreement of the CIS heads of state.

He also said that if the Crimean parliament decides to hold the referendum, it will inevitably split the Crimean population and set people against each other. He stated therefore that he was against such a referendum.

### Republic Reportedly to Supply Iran With Scuds

*PM2904145292 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 27 Apr 92 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Ukraine-Tehran Scud Missiles Deal"]

[Excerpt] Paris, London, Tehran, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Diplomatic sources said yesterday that Ukraine is to supply Iran with Scud-B surface-to-surface missiles and other military equipment in return for Iran's supplying it with natural gas and exporting it to the Western European states via Ukrainian territory. The sources, which were following Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's visit to Tehran, told SAWT AL-KUWAYT that Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanajani and the Ukrainian president agreed to form a political committee and an economic committee comprising ministers of the two countries to examine prospects for expanding the framework of bilateral cooperation in various fields, including strengthening Iran's defense structure. [passage omitted]

### Iran, Azerbaijan To Join Gas Pipeline Project

*AU2804160892 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] This year Iran will supply between four and five million tonnes of oil to Ukraine. This was stated, according to Tehran radio, by the Iranian Oil Minister (?Golam Reza Aga-Zade).

He also said that Ukraine will receive 25 billion cubic meters of Iranian gas. According to the minister, Iran, Ukraine, and Azerbaijan are creating a joint company for constructing three gas pipelines to carry gas to Ukraine. Some of the fuel will be re-exported to Europe later.

Aga-Zade said that completion of the pipeline should take three years. Construction of the other two lines will start in 1996.

## Economic Problems Blamed on Russian Cabinet

*OW2804181692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from issue No. 61 of the "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The present-day course of the Russian-Ukrainian political dialogue, including that at the level of president, "is not producing any concrete results," says Victor Lisitsky, deputy Ukrainian envoy in Russia. According to him, the biggest problem in the bilateral relations is the lack of a real mechanism of regulation of economic relations on the basis of compromise. Lisitsky fears that a result of the proclaimed energy price rise announced by the Russian cabinet may be a crisis of payments threatening an economic collapse.

Touching on the talks in Odessa initiated by Kravchuk and Yeltsin, concerning the destiny of the Black Sea Fleet, the Ukrainian deputy envoy said that the talks "may harmonize approaches to the division of the fleet and its entire property. The talks are likely to be long and difficult, and the Odessa meeting, one of a series of such meetings.

Asked about accusation that Ukraine allegedly seeks to "destroy the CIS", Lisitsky reminded that the Soviet Union had been largely destroyed by the Russian democratic movement though, he said, the process was objective and irreversible. The Russian democratic elite hoped that Russia, following the liquidation of the Union, will continued to play the role of a "mother state" around which all other Soviet republics will rally. "But Ukraine and the Baltic states have a different view of the problem."

According to Lisitsky, this is normal, and we should learn to search for accord through compromises, not to dramatize differences of approach. Lisitsky did not rule out the possibility that "the axis within the CIS will be other than Moscow-Kiev," and this process may proceed in a different direction. Lisitsky did not rule out that the consolidation may be through European structures, for example "through Brussels.

On commission from the Ukrainian leadership, the diplomat prepared an analysis of the economic situation in the Commonwealth's two countries at the initial stage of their movement toward the market.

The basic conclusion of the study: "Ukraine is harder hit than Russia by the trial of the movement to the market."

For example, during the first quarter of 1992 industrial production fell 15.3 percent in Ukraine as compared with 13 percent in Russia. Production declined in consumer goods 22.2 percent in Ukraine and 13 percent in Russia. food production declined in Ukraine 34.2 percent and 28 percent in Russia.

Ukraine has been harder hit by the crisis, because:

Ukraine has been lagging behind Russia in price liberalization, and producers and trades are braking the movement of trade flows in the hope of selling them at higher prices.

It was also important that Ukraine became independent but "in terms of resources, it is hostage to Russia and some other CIS countries."

"The resource leftovers after the rapid industrialization of the Russian Empire and then the USSR are too expensive, said he. Specifically, the price of the Donetsk coal rose 57.4-fold, and prices of ferrous metals, 40.2-fold. All in all, wholesale prices in the industry rose more than 16-fold to 18-fold, while in Russia only 9-fold to 10-fold. Compared with Russia, prices rose twice as fast in Ukraine, says the expert.

Russia is cutting down on its traditional supplies of important resources and it even violates government-to-government agreements, said Lisitsky. He cites the following date: in 1991 Russia supplies only 90 percent of oil, 72 percent of gasolene, 53 percent of rolled ferrous metals, 40 percent of steel pipes, 57 percent of industrial timber and 47 percent of sawn timber.

As a result, today the price of gasolene in Ukraine is approaching 20 rubles per liter (2 to 3 times higher than in Russia). The responsibility is borne by the Russian government's pricing policy. This is bound to have an effect on the CIS destiny.

## Servicmen in Other Republics To Return Home

*LD2804213492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2100 GMT 26 Apr 92*

[Text] According to the press service of the Ukraine's border troops, nearly 4,000 frontier guards who come from Ukraine are carrying out service today in Transcaucasus.

In line with the decree of the Ukraine's president of 24 March 1992 on returning to Ukraine the servicemen, citizens of Ukraine, from the military units which are dislocated on the territory of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Moldova, all of them will be transferred to motherland to continue their service in Ukraine.

### International Symposium on Human Rights Begins

*LD2804163992 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] An international symposium "Ukraine, the USA, Public Human Rights Movement and Power" began its work in Kiev today. The organizers of the symposium from the Ukrainian side were an All-Ukraine Society of the Repressed and the committee Helsinki-90, from the American side the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews as well as the joint Ukrainian-American Public [word indistinct] on Human Rights. The national president of the Union of Councils of Soviet Jews, Mrs. Pamela (?Brown-Cohen), pointed out, opening the symposium, that the activists of this amalgamation are struggling for the removal of obstacles in the way of free movement for any person, for the guarantee of their right to leave the country and return.

Speaking in the symposium was Charge d'Affaires of the United States in Ukraine, John Gundersen [name as received]. Present at the symposium were also the First Secretary of the US Embassy in Ukraine, John (?Sebanchuk) and other officials of the embassy. Tomorrow the symposium will continue its work.

## National Affairs

### Supreme Soviet Law Grants Autonomy to Crimea

*LD2904145192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1358 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksandr Litvinov for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 29 Apr (TASS)—Today the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine adopted a law "On the Status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea." This draft law was earlier approved by the Supreme Soviet of Crimea.

The most heated discussion developed around four articles defining the status of Crimea, the range of the autonomous republic's powers, and the procedure for changing these powers. Finally, the members of parliament agreed that the Republic of Crimea, being a component part of Ukraine, independently tackles questions which are related to its competence in accordance with the Constitution and laws of Ukraine.

The territory of the Republic of Crimea cannot be changed or transferred to the structure of another state or administrative and territorial formation without the agreement of its people. Ukraine acts as a guarantor of state sovereignty of the Republic of Crimea within the framework of the agreed powers. The extent of the Crimean Republic's powers as established by this law cannot be changed without the agreement of the highest legislative bodies of Ukraine and Crimea.

### Crimean Russians Support CIS Control of Fleet

*LD3004084392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 25 Apr 92*

[Text] The Black Sea Fleet should belong to the CIS, says an address issued by a constituent gathering of the Russophone community in the Crimea, held on April 25 in Simferopol, the NEGA agency reports. It decided to call a congress of Crimea peoples not later than June of this year. The gathering also adopted addresses to the presidents of Russia and Ukraine, the officers of the Black Sea Fleet and the peoples of the Crimea. The addresses propose keeping the Black Sea Fleet within the CIS combined armed forces. They also call on Crimeans to turn out for the referendum and vote for Crimean independence.

### Feodosiya City Denies Plan to Join Ukraine

*LD3004075692 Kiev UKRINFORM Diplomatic Information Service in Russian 1344 GMT 24 Apr 92*

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Pyabchikov]

[Text] Feodosiya (Republic of the Crimea), 24 April. (UKRINFORM)—Deputies of Feodosiya city society have disproved IZVESTIYA's report that, in case a referendum is held in the Crimea, they will take part in creating a separate Tavriya Oblast as part of Ukraine. In reality, as was stated at the session of the city soviet, no decision of this kind has been taken. Fabrications about this have been promulgated to destabilize the situation in the republic. Deputies have instructed commissions of the soviet to carry out an investigation on how this misinformation came into existence and demanded that the newspaper publish a refutation.

### Party Issues Statement on Krasnodon Cossacks

*AU3004103592 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 23 Apr 92 p 2*

[Commentary by Serhiy Shtanko: "The 'Cossack Theme' Has Not Been Exhausted Yet"]

[Text] As already reported, a group of Krasnodon (Luhansk Oblast) Cossacks had sworn allegiance to the Don Troops and to Russia. This event is now gaining increasingly strong political resonance, and passions around the "Cossack question" are becoming inflated every day. This is also attested to by the statement issued by the Luhansk Oblast organization of the Ukrainian Republican Party [URP]. The URP members believe that the actions by the "Luhansk Society of Don Cossacks," which has been officially registered by the Oblast Executive Committee, do not conform to the regulations of its statutes, and the true goals of this society are the struggle against Ukrainian statehood, nonrecognition of Ukraine's territorial integrity, the restoration of the Russian empire, and the struggle against the Ukrainian Autocephalic Church.

At the same time, the URP Luhansk Oblast organization stated that it is generally in favor of the rebirth of Cossackdom, including the Don Cossackdom and reaffirms the URP's consistent policy toward achieving equality of all peoples living in Ukraine and the adherence to the principles of the Helsinki agreement. At the same time, it decisively protests against "fuelling anti-Ukrainian and pro-imperial sentiments among the population by the antistate forces that are covering themselves up by the "Luhansk Society of Don Cossacks."

The URP organization has demanded that the Oblast Council of People's Deputies, the representative of Ukraine's president, and the Procurator of the Luhansk Oblast take measures to put an end to the illegal activity. It also calls upon all democratic forces of the Luhansk Oblast to support the idea of building a law-governed state in order to maintain peace and quiet and normal interethnic relations.

It is difficult to tell what these interethnic relations are going to be in Donbass tomorrow. It is only known that some circles among the Cossacks perceive statements like the one issued by the URP as open nationalism.

One thing may be said with confidence: The "Cossack theme" is far from being exhausted, and we will have to return to it more than once. It is essential that its discussion should proceed at a peaceful negotiating table.

## Kravchuk Creates Cultural Development Fund

*LD2904224592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1839 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] Kiev April 29 UKRINFORM-TASS—President of Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk, issued a decree today confirming intention to consolidate in Ukraine "brotherly coexistence and fruitful cooperation of all nationalities," ensure unhindered development of their languages and culture. On the recommendation of the Council of National Societies in the nationality affairs committee under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine a national minority cultural development fund has been set up.

## Byelarus

### Defense Minister on Army, Weapons Withdrawal

*OW2904122992 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1800 GMT 27 Apr 92*

[A. Zhuk interview from Byelarus; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] [Zhuk] When the republic's minister of defense was nominated at the parliament session, a singular situation was created. Up until now, one general carried out the minister's duties while another commanded the Byelarus Military District.

However, the premier proposed the chief of staff, First Deputy District Commander Pavel Kozlovskiy, as the new defense minister. As has been mentioned in the presentation, this 50-year-old lieutenant general understands both the officers and the soldiers. He is a professional military man, an ethnic Byelarus who has a clear concept of the republic's military doctrine.

[Begin recording] [Zhuk] Pavel Pavlovich, journalists have called you the dashing general."

[Kozlovskiy] And you do not understand why? I think that this is a good beginning.

[Zhuk] Maybe the reason is the impressive number of votes that you received.

[Kozlovskiy] I am happy about the many votes, but not so much because they support me. I have the feeling that it is the republic's armed forces who are supported, and this is what makes me especially happy.

[Zhuk] What kind of army will our defense minister be commanding?

[Kozlovskiy] The Army of the Byelarus Republic.

[Zhuk] Of course. But actually I wanted to ask about the size, the equipment, and so on.

[Kozlovskiy] As I have already mentioned yesterday, the financial possibilities of the republic allow the republic to have an army capable of defending it—about 90,000 or 95,000 servicemen. Such an army might have about 22,000 officers. Undoubtedly, it will have to undergo reform so as to become more maneuverable and mobile, capable of defending the republic's interests and sovereignty. The main idea that goes into forming the army, into the structures that are yet to be created, is included in the declaration of independence. It is the idea of sovereignty and of a neutral, non-nuclear state. All the structures are being developed on the basis of this main idea.

[Zhuk] Speaking of a non-nuclear state, how soon will Byelarus get rid of this terrible weapon?

[Kozlovskiy] The withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons from the republic's territory is already near completion. The strategic nuclear weapons, according to the treaty, will meanwhile remain on our territory. It might be two, three or four years, depending on how the situation develops, and depending on the signing of an agreement on strategic offensive weapons. There are many factors. [end recording]

### Government Proposes Anticrisis Program

*PM3004085192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2*

[Nikolay Matukovskiy report: "Minsk: Government Proposes Anticrisis Plan"]

[Text] Minsk—The government of the Republic of Byelarus has adopted the main conceptual tenets of a program to bring the republic out of crisis.

The defining concept of this program is the construction of a socially oriented market economy and the restructuring of the entire national economic complex to enhance those spheres where quick success can be obtained: agriculture, food, and consumer goods. A single commercial republic fund for barter deals and commerce will be formed, and restrictions will be removed on the formation of nonstate enterprises, including joint ventures and the investment of foreign capital. Plots of land for prospecting, extracting, and processing minerals will be issued for the use of foreign firms. Contrary to popular opinion, Byelarus is rich in minerals, from potassium salts, oil, bituminous shale, brown coal, and granite, to rare-earth metals.

In the agrarian sphere all restrictions on the development of private farms are to be removed, and the land bank which is now being set up will issue specially targeted credits. An important place in the anticrisis program is assigned to the conversion of the numerous defense industry enterprises, the deamalgamation of enterprises, and the creation of an independent credit-finance system capable of functioning autonomously. As one means of overcoming the crisis the republic government envisages the introduction of a national currency. In the first stage reusable coupons will be issued similar to the Ukrainian ones, and later the republic's own talers will appear.

The concept is attractive, but how will it be transformed into reality? After all, so many good resolutions have perished before crossing the threshold from paper to stern reality...

### New Currency To Begin Circulation 1 Jun

*OW2904181292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1552 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] New money will circulate in Byelarus beginning June 1. In his interview with "IF" [INTERFAX] the Chairman of the National Bank Administration Stanislav Bogdankevich stated that this measure is caused by the incapability of the Russian National Bank to deliver the necessary amount of cash for wages, pensions, allowances payments.

S. Bogdankevich noted that Byelarus is still remaining in the rouble zone. He thinks that if the National Bank of Russia provides the republic with cash then the temporary money will be withdrawn.

The director of the Byelarus National Bank noted that the decision on introducing new money into circulation was coordinated with the Russian government.

### Country on 'Brink of Ecological Disaster'

*LD2904131792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1156 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[By BELTA correspondent Valentina Menshikova—TASS]

[Text] Minsk, April 29 TASS—Byelarus is on the brink of ecological disaster, believes Vladimir Satsevich, coordinator of the Byelarusian branch of the Ecological International. He told BELTA that all water in Byelarus is contaminated with radionuclides.

Satsevich said that a considerable number of radioactive particles is present in the one-centimetre layer of soil over 70 per cent of the Byelarusian territory and that radiation contamination of the air near the earth is dozens and even hundreds of times above the permissible norm. So dangerous a situation that formed as a result of the government actions leads to ecological degradation, is hazardous for health and leads to mortality of large number of people, Satsevich said.

The law "on environmental protection in Byelarus" adopted by the republic's parliament in the first reading gives confidence that not everything is so hopeless, Satsevich said. He said the law should have been adopted much earlier. Then the officials who deliberately concealed or distorted information about the explosion of the nuclear reactor in Chernobyl would have been brought into court.

Satsevich quoted a number of articles of the new law that are mandatory under the new law all enterprises, agencies and firms, including foreign, that operate in the republic's territory are obliged to make examination of the projects before and after they are designed and to overhaul the existing facilities to ensure that they have no deleterious effect on the environment.

### Oblast Underfunded for Chernobyl Aftermath Work

*PM2904152392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 26 Apr 92*

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report from Gomel by Yu. Skrebnev, identified by caption]

[Text] [Skrebnev] Hundreds of villages and agricultural complexes now remind us, as it were, of some of Byelarus' losses in the battles for people's health that our republic has waged in conjunction with the entire former Union. Eliminating the aftermath of a disaster that did not occur on our territory is now a most important social and economic problem for Byelarus. It cannot be tackled by the economy of one state alone.

[V.N. Sych, deputy chairman of Gomel Executive Committee, identified by caption] Left to face these problems on its own, our republic has this year only been able to give us one-fourth of the money needed.

[Skrebnev] For the time being old men like the recluses of Chernobyl are celebrating Easter alone in dead villages. On the eve of today's holiday new bells were hung in the St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Gomel. They will now be ringing for the first hostages of the nuclear apocalypse. Chernobyl was a visible warning of this for all of us.

## Moldova

### Dniester Region Denies Resumption of Negotiations

*OW2904195792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1812 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Dniester region refuted the information on continuing negotiations with Moldova which was spread by mass media Wednesday [29 April]. According to the Dniester region's press center, without submitting any explanations the Moldovan delegation did not arrive to the session of the conciliatory commission which was to continue its work April 29 due to the earlier reached agreement. The press center in Tiraspol reported that the Deputy Prime Minister Andrey Sangelia who headed the Moldovan delegation earlier was dismissed from the conciliatory commission by President Mircea Snegur's decree. The new head of the delegation was appointed the Vice Premier Konstantin Druk.

### Businessmen Say Industrial Enterprises Bankrupt

*PM2904085592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 1*

[Svetlana Gamova report: "Moldovan Industry on Brink of Bankruptcy"]

[Text] Chisinau—All the republic's industrial enterprises are bankrupt, the republic's entrepreneurs have stated in an appeal to President M. Snegur.

The breakdown of economic ties with the states of the former Union has led to a slump of more than 25 percent in production and a surge in unemployment, and has meant that most production has had to switch to a three-hour work system. A new blow which wrecked the entrepreneurs' efforts was the Moldovan Government resolution on new energy prices.

The surge in output prices as a result of the increase in energy prices has created a situation whereby industry cannot sell and customers cannot buy. Industrial and trade storage facilities in the republic are chockablock. There is not even any demand for meat—with a prime cost now in excess of 60 rubles.

### Supreme Security Council Urges Privatization

*AU2904201192 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1931 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 29/4/1992—The Supreme Security Council of the Republic of Moldova held a meeting in Chisinau, which was also attended by members of the Supreme Economic Council. As President Mircea Snegur said, the meeting was called to stimulate fast privatization. The endless theoretical discussions and the confrontations of outlooks led to an economic blockade. The procrastination of privatization seriously diminishes the effect of measures and normative acts regarding the economy. Economic reforms have no alternative, underscored the Moldovan president. A way out of the crisis, and the economic assistance the republic receives on an international plane, including the foreign investment we need, depend to a great extent on the way in which we promote reforms.

The Supreme Security Council assessed the further postponement of working out the privatization programme as inadmissible, and instructed the government and relevant departments to finalize it in a week.

### Introduction of Moldovan Currency Ready

*LD2904144592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1304 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, April 29 TASS—The Moldovan national currency—the lei—has already been printed in Romania, Mikhay Patrash, chairman of the Commission for Economy and Budget of the Moldovan Parliament, told the "SFATUL TSERIY" newspaper on Wednesday [29 April].

According to Patrash, Moldova has spent five million U.S. dollars for the purpose. However, Patrash believes Moldova should not hurry to put the lei into circulation, as its economy is in recession and the introduction of the national currency might worsen the situation and fail to bring about the desired effect.

On the other hand, Patrash said, proceeding from political considerations, Moldova should not be the first Commonwealth republic to introduce its own currency.

"We'd better wait until Ukraine and the Baltic states do so," Patrash added.

### Party Finds CIS Membership 'Problematic'

*LD2504053792 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 23 Apr 92*

[Text] Moldovan President Snegur is consulting party representatives on aligning public forces on the Dniester region. NEGA reports that Democratic Party representatives considered the discussion of Dniester issues at the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies as a screen behind which are hidden the interests of certain forces seeking to revive the empire. The Democrats believe that Moldova's continued membership in the CIS is problematic.

### Army Facing Problems Due to 'Vague Status'

*PM2404143792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Apr 92 p 1*

[Report by Colonel N. Mulyar, Colonel V. Gavrilenko, and correspondent Major A. Stasovskiy: "Troops Value Russian Jurisdiction But Still Have No Legal Status"]

[Text] Many 14th Army servicemen heaved a sigh of relief when Russian President Boris Yeltsin recently issued a decree transferring the units of the large strategic formation to Russian Federation jurisdiction. But this purely moral relief was soon followed by disappointment.

The Army is still not fighting anyone, is maintaining all kinds of budding peace initiatives, and is prepared to act as a barrier separating the opposing sides... But, despite all this, it seems as though the Army is not fated to be neutral. This is happening largely because of the vague status of the troops in the Dniester region. Because of this, armed attacks on the Army's weapons and munitions dumps are continuing, and agitators from the opposing sides have been bursting into Army units, promising a life of milk and honey in their armed forces. Yes, officers from the 14th Guards Army are today being actively head-hunted for the newly created Moldovan and Dniester Armies. Realizing that they are no longer wanted, they are choosing the lesser evil as they see it, for themselves, for their families, for the fatherland...

Speaking during a recent meeting between Igor Smirnov, president of the Dniester Moldavian Republic, and 14th Army servicemen, Colonel Valeriy Kalugin, the Army's former deputy chief of staff, said that it was time for the large strategic formation's units to side with the Dniester region, otherwise tomorrow could be too late. Russia, Kalugin stressed, does not need the 14th Army and warrant officers. They will be left without apartments or pensions. But here, on the left bank of the Dniester, all the military could find themselves being sent off somewhere one fine morning, while their weapons and hardware are confiscated. In Col. Kalugin's opinion the Army too is to blame for the bloodshed. A barrier to armed conflict should have been formed long ago.

The 14th Army leadership has stated that if the large strategic formation's status is not defined in the very near future, it would be better to disband it and subsequently sell off its materiel and armaments.

It is hard to make an unambiguous assessment of the statements made by the 14th Army officers and generals but they are clearly right about one thing. It is hard to stay calm in a situation where the military are considered to be occupation forces and their immediate withdrawal is demanded.

In conversation with our correspondent, Major General Vyacheslav Sitnikov, chief of the Army staff, said that both sides had been making more frequent accusations against the military lately.

In this connection the 14th Army Military Council has sent the president of the Dniester Moldavian Republic and the chairman of the Dniester Supreme Soviet a statement which says that the continuing blockading of military units and seizure of combat equipment and weapons by the Dniester Moldavian Republic is alarming in a situation when things are starting to stabilize. The Army Military Council demanded that the safety of servicemen be ensured, that criminal proceedings be instituted against any lawbreakers, and that the stolen weaponry and munitions be returned.

## Diplomatic Relations Established With Germany

*LD3004074292 Berlin ADN in German 0705 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Text] Moscow (ADN)—Germany and Moldova have established diplomatic relations. The German ambassador, Dr. Klaus Blech, and Moldovan Vice Premier Ion Kondrat Cebuc exchanged protocols to this effect in the Moldovan permanent mission in Moscow today.

Germany now has diplomatic relations with all members of the CIS.

## Kazakhstan

### Turkish Prime Minister on Official Visit

#### Turkic Republics Summit Discussed

*TA2904150092 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1425 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] Alma-Ata (A.A)—Turkey and Kazakhstan on Wednesday [29 April] agreed in principle to hold a yearly summit of Turkic republics, officials said here on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel arrived in the Kazakh capital on Wednesday on the third leg of a tour of five republics of the former Soviet Union.

Official meetings between delegations of the two countries started in the afternoon headed by Demirel and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

During the meetings Demirel proposed a yearly summit meeting between leaders of the Turkic republics and added that Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan have already accepted such a proposal.

The summit will be held every year in each republic in turn, starting with Turkey.

An agreement draft foreseeing Turkey-Alma-Ata flights was also signed between the two countries.

Demirel and Nazarbayev later met in a face to face meeting.

Demirel is scheduled to visit Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan before returning to Turkey on Sunday.

#### Negotiations Have 'Concrete Character'

*OW2904200692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1812 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Wednesday [29 April] in Alma-Ata the Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbeyev began negotiations with the Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel who is visiting republics of this region.

At a press conference devoted to the outcome of the negotiations N. Nazarbeyev noted that the meeting has a concrete character and a package of documents was developed which will be signed Friday. It is supposed that agreements on allocation large monetary credits to Kazakhstan and on cooperation in the field of agriculture will be included.

According to Nazarbeyev, the relations between Turkey and Kazakhstan "are developing dynamically". 17 Turkish firms and companies are working in the Republic now, a Turkish-Kazakh economic council has bocn created, a direct airline has been established, and Turkey will begin TV broadcasting for Kazakhstan. Earlier the two countries have signed Declaration on principles and purposes of relations, agreements in the field of transport and telecommunications, on trade, economic and scientific-technical cooperation.

S. Demirel noted that Kazakhstan, being rich in natural resources, may become a prosperous state with a developed democracy.

April 30 the Turkish delegation will visit the sacred place of all the Moslems in Turkmenistan - Akhmed Yasavi Mausoleum, which was reconstructed with the assistance of Turkey, and it will visit Baykonur launching site.

#### Demirel Cited at News Conference

*TA2904191192 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Zafer Kiraz report from Alma-Ata]

[Text] Following an airport ceremony welcoming Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel to Alma-Ata, Demirel and Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev held a tete-a-tete meeting. The talks conducted between the delegations of the two countries also yielded certain concrete results. Turkey will extend a loan of $200 million to Kazakhstan.

Agreements and protocols will be signed on Friday [1 May] covering the areas of agreement between the two countries. After the official talks between the delegations, Demirel and Nazarbayev held a joint news conference.

In his statement, Nazarbayev pointed out that his meeting with Demirel was the fourth high-level contact between Kazakhstan and Turkey in the past year and a half, adding that relations are increasingly developing. He addressed Demirel as my brother Suleyman Bey. Nazarbayev reported that the implementation of previously signed agreements and their further concretization were discussed during the talks. Explaining that agreement was reached to enable 2,000 Kazakh youths to study in various Turkish schools at Turkey's expense, Nazarbayev remarked that this is a significant help for his country.

Nazarbayev pointed out that Turkish Television has begun broadcasting to Central Asian countries. He noted that agreement was also reached on financial issues, adding that the Turkish Government will initially extend a $200-million loan to Kazakhstan.

In his turn, Demirel stressed that Kazakhstan's newly attained independence is a source of great happiness and joy for the Turkish people. Remarking that new horizons, opportunities, and possibilities have now presented themselves to the world, Demirel said that Turkey and Kazakhstan can do many things for world peace and the prosperity of their own peoples. The prime minister declared that Turkey will do its utmost for the happiness of the Kazakh people. Bilateral relations will gain new dimensions in the coming months, Demirel pledged.

Demirel and Nazarbayev later answered reporters' questions. Demirel announced that 19 Turkish firms have gone to work in Kazakhstan, constituting one of the concrete examples of bilateral ties. He explained that Turkey has the necessary experience to assist Kazakhstan in its transition to a market economy. Demirel continued:

[Begin Demirel recording] We will encounter many opportunities in the coming period. We can exploit them together. After all, we came and are telling our Kazakh brothers: You are opening up to the world. This is an important window. We will help you in every field. Perpetuate your independence until eternity. We will help and support you in every area to the best of our ability. We cannot do everything, but we are offering goodwill within the limits of our means. I believe that this more important than everything. [end recording]

Answering reporters' questions, Nazarbayev said that his government attaches great importance to privatization and can learn many things from Turkey on this subject. Nazarbayev declared that there is definitely no question of a return to the past in Kazakhstan and that the Kazakh people must recognize this.

After the news conference, Demirel inaugurated the Turkish Embassy in Alma-Ata. Nazarbayev later hosted a dinner in Demirel's honor.

In a dinner toast, Nazarbayev declared that his country considers Turkey, with which it shares the same language, religion, and roots, as the closest of brothers. Recalling that Turkey was also the first country to recognize Kazakhstan's independence, Nazarbayev said he is proud of this. The Kazakh president remarked that the relations between the two brotherly countries, which became separated from one another in the course of history, are now developing in a comprehensive and satisfactory manner.

Explaining that with Demirel's visit, Turkish television programs can now be viewed in Kazakhstan, Nazarbayev expressed happiness over this. He declared that the cooperation among Turkic states must be viewed in the same positive vein as the union among European and Latin American countries. Pointing out that Kazakhstan is currently facing various problems, Nazarbayev concluded his speech by quoting the Turkish proverb that says: A person who does not have a problem cannot find peace.

In turn, Demirel recounted that important global developments took place in the past two years, reshaping the world. He stated: For us, for the Republic of Turkey, this change has many pleasing aspects. Millions of people who speak the same language as us and who share the same religion have attained their independence. Noting that a great Turkic world has now emerged on the vast territory extending from the Adriatic Sea to the Chinese Wall, Demirel said: Kazakhstan's independence demolished the wall which separated us from each other for so many years.

The prime minister remarked that President Nazarbayev and his people played an important role in bringing about this development in the past eight or nine months. He explained that Kazakhstan will make a transition to democracy and market economy, adding that it is well known that this system is inevitable and irreversible. Demirel concluded:

[Begin Demirel recording] You are experiencing a transitional period. The Turkish state and your brothers in Turkey are together with you in this period. We are supporting you not only through our own means but also by explaining your great cause to others. You are obliged to succeed and you will do so. Your name will be registered in a golden page in the history of the great Turkish community. [end recording]

TRT's [Turkish Radio and Television] Avrasya [Eurasia] programs were broadcast over Kazakhstan Television before the dinner hosted in Demirel's honor. The prime minister will continue his contacts in Kazakhstan tomorrow as well.

### Embassy Opened in Alma-Ata

*TA2904154092 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1445 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] Alma-Ata (A.A)—Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel cemented Turkish-Kazakh ties on Wednesday [29 April] when he opened a new Turkish Embassy building here in the Kazakh capital.

Kazakh Prime Minister Sergey Tereshenko was present at the opening ceremony.

Demirel is in Kazakhstan on the third leg of a tour of five former Soviet republics.

### Demirel Notes 'Responsibility'

*TA3004095792 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 0855 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Text] Alma-Ata (AA)—Premier Suleyman Demirel said on Wednesday [29 April] that everyone should realize that "we are bigger than we expect."

Demirel chatted with journalists in Alma-Ata, the third leg of his tour in the Turkic republics.

"The Soviet empire, its collapse and its situation afterwards is very important. What emerged under this cover is very different from expectations," Demirel said.

Stressing that Turkey had a historical mission, Demirel said, "the present administration (in Turkey) is conscious of its responsibility."

Demirel went on to say that nearly half of the populations in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan consisted of Germans and Russians.

He said that Turkey did not want to disturb any one, including Russia and "our objective is not pan-Turkism."

"However," he added, "this place is our fatherland. Both our history and culture begins from here."

He went on to say that the Turkic republics of the former Soviet Union had great problems in spite of gaining their independence. However, he said, these problems were temporary.

He added that Uzbek President Islam Karimov, Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, whom he met during his present tour, were all leaders who were conscious of being a Turk and willing to give the best services to their countries.

On the self-administration of these countries, Demirel said, "this should definitely be accomplished." He added that Turkey was determined to support these republics in every respect.

Demirel also disclosed that he had written a letter to U.S. President George Bush last week for the setting up of an urgent assistance fund for the Central Asian republics.

### Nazarbayev, Demirel Visit Baykonur

*LD3004140592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1347 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[By KAZTAG correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin for TASS]

[Text] Alma Ata April 30 TASS—President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and visiting Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel on Thursday [30 April] made a tour of several regions of the republic. Nazarbayev and his guest also visited Leninsk and the Baykonur space centre, and met the personnel of the centre.

Demirel will conclude his visit on May 1.

### Nazarbayev Decree Raises Wages, Regulates Prices

*LD2804224392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0500 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] The AZIAPRESS agency reports that Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev has signed a decree raising wages and regulating prices in the republic. In this document, a new scale for a minimum wage and pension, according to age, of 800 rubles per month is established. On 1 May, the wages of staff in the health service, education, science and culture, law and order organizations, and employees of the state authorities and administrative bodies of Kazakhstan, are to increase by 100 percent.

### Denationalization, Privatization Decree Issued

*OW3004114292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1024 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev has issued a decree to speed up denationalization and privatization in productive branches of the economy.

Privatization agencies are to be set up to act as mediators between sellers and buyers. In order to guarantee the interests of staffs [word as received] the main form of denationalization will be the transformation of government-owned companies into unlimited joint stock companies.

### Nazarbayev Confirms Auto Deal With Italy

*OW3004115492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1024 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [29 April] the Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev held talks with a group of Italian businessmen on cooperation in the auto industry and the production of farm machinery. He confirmed the readiness of the Kazakh leadership to promote a program of cooperation with FIAT company worked out earlier.

Under the program facilities are to be constructed in Kazakhstan to produce Panda FIATs as well as vans and trucks with a weight load of 800 to 1,200 kilos. At the first stage Kazakhstan is expected to assemble 30 to 50 thousand vehicles a year.

## Kyrgyzstan

### Further on Turkish Prime Minister's Visit

### Joint Communique Issued

*TA2904165592 Television Network in Turkish 1600 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Zafer Kiraz report from Bishkek]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A joint communique was issued today, in connection with Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's visit to Kyrgyzstan. The communique noted that the talks held during the visit were successful and stressed the importance of holding more frequent contacts at all levels and establishing consultation mechanisms. The sides agreed to conduct joint consultations among Turkey, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan, which share special historical and cultural ties. Within this framework, a meeting will be held in the fall of this year in Istanbul with the participation of the heads of state or government of these countries. Common subjects and international issues will be discussed at this meeting.

Meanwhile, within the framework of agreements and protocols signed with Kyrgyzstan, Turkey allocated to this country a quota of 2,000 students for the upcoming academic year in technical, secondary, and higher education. Moreover, instructions were issued to the relevant authorities to conclude the matter on Turkish-language education in Bishkek.

The joint communique also announced that a cooperation protocol was signed to disseminate TRT [Turkish Radio and Television] Avrasya [Eurasia] broadcasts to Kyrgyzstan and to include Kyrgyz cinema and television programs in these broadcasts.

According to agreements signed in Bishkek, Turkey will extend loans to Kyrgyzstan for the sale of wheat and sugar and cooperation will be conducted between banks.

### Unity of Turkic Peoples Stressed

*OW2904171792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1522 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Our correspondent Bermet Malikova reports from Bishkek that yesterday's (April 28) meeting between Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev and Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel was held behind closed doors.

Demirel has also had official negotiations with Kyrgyz Prime Minister Tursunbek Chyngyshev, assuring him that Turkey was willing to give Kyrgyzstan whatever assistance it might need to get through its present difficult transitional period and build a firm basis for a market economy. The Turkish Prime Minister stressed his country's striving for "unity with the fraternal Turkic peoples of Central Asia and Kazakhstan." But there should be no Pan-Turkic ideology behind this. "Our peoples should keep together, seeking to achieve stability in the region," he said.

IF's note: The sides signed agreements on the mutual protection of investments and are expected to sign agreements on air and motor transportation, on radio and TV, and some other documents. Today Akayev and Demirel took part in the ceremony for the opening of a Turkish embassy in Bishkek.

### Situation in Uzgen 'Heating Up Again'

*PM2904145192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2*

[Aleksandr Ryabushkin report: "More Unrest in Uzgen"]

[Text] Bishkek—The situation in Uzgen is gradually heating up again. Rallies have resumed, tents have appeared in the central square, and 20 people have declared a hunger strike. The demand is the same: the repeal of the Kyrgyzstan parliament's decision to transfer the city to the jurisdiction of the rayon.

Passions here were on the point of cooling somewhat. M. Sherimkulov, chairman of the republic Supreme Soviet, visited Uzgen. A deputies commission was set up, and was supposed to investigate and elaborate a compromise decision. But time has passed, and the commission's activity so far remains unremarkable. And people realized that this lightning conductor was needed only to gain time and let everything calm down of its own accord.

Meanwhile the new head of the administration decided not to wait, but to put an end to the irksome problem at a single stroke: He ordered the militia to clear away the tents; one hunger striker was even taken to court. But the judges did not find a corpus delicti in his actions and released him. In response the city soviet held a session, and deputies threatened to join the hunger strikers.

One further piece of bad news. Judging by local press reports, Kyrgyzstan now has its own local Salman Rushdie. A militant religious youth group has sentenced a well-known Kyrgyz poet, one of the translators of the Koran into the Kyrgyz language, to death in absentia. He is accused of numerous distortions of Arabic words and expressions, grammatical sins, and free translation of texts.

## Tajikistan

### Opposing Rallies in Dushanbe Continue

### TV Center Blockaded

*LD3004013792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Dushanbe situation is explosive. Two alternative meetings in downtown Dushanbe is something that is unexpected. Opposition forces claim President Nabiyev violated the 24 April peace agreement with the opposition. The alternative movements support Kenjayev, the former parliamentary speaker, and President Nabiyev. A Tajik Supreme Soviet session opens in Dushanbe this afternoon with one item on the agenda: the Republic's political situation. Local observers think that if there are large-scale clashes in Dushanbe, this could threaten the Republic's statehood.

There were reports this morning that mass meetings were being held in other rayons of the Republic, Kulyabskiy and Leninabadskiy. Mikhail Nikulin, our correspondent in Dushanbe, reports that the television center building in Dushanbe has been blockaded.

[Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1400 GMT on 29 April adds: "NEGA reports from Dushanbe that the Tajik Supreme Soviet emergency session scheduled for 1400 failed to open today. The opposition completely blocked the buildings of the president's residence, the cabinet of ministers, and the television center building. Three rallies are currently under way: an opposition rally, a government rally, and a neutral rally. The latter has been organized by young people demanding that the government stabilize the situation."]

### Yeltsin Asked To Resign

*LD2904191992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The parliament in Tajikistan is today discussing the situation in the Republic in view of the large-scale confrontation between government supporters and the opposition. A 100,000-strong rally in support of the government called on Boris Yeltsin to resign and hoisted the flag of the USSR above Ozodi Square.

The 50,000 people in the opposition are afraid that troops may be used to disperse them. They plan to demand the resignation of Rakhman Nabiyev, whose decision to appoint Safarali Kenjayev as the head of the local National Security Committee is considered by democrats to be a sharp insult.

### Party Demands Nabiyev's Resignation

*OW2904194292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1812 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Tajik Democratic Party (TDP) demands resignation of the republican President Rakhman Nabiyev, the party's leader Shodmon Yusupov declared at a press conference, Wednesday [29 April] in Dushanbe. He explained this by the fact that "having organized the confrontation of the government supporters and the opposition, the republican authorities have led the republic to the edge of the fratricidal war".

Currently three demonstrations are being held in Dushanbe: supporters of the opposition, of authorities, and a demonstration of opponents of all demonstrations. More than 100 thousand people are participating in these demonstrations.

Sh. Yusupov noted that the TDP "considers that the only way out of the situation is formation of a coalition government". According to him, it must unite representatives of a "third buffer force" - "sober-minded people, knowing the market economy's demands". Principles of selection people to the government must be worked out at the joint negotiations of the present authorities, opposition and activists of the national intelligentsia, the leader of TDP considers.

At the same time Yusupov noted that the present opposition forces, the TDP and Islamic Party of Resurrection among them, do not intend to enter the coalition government. He explained this by their readiness to compromise and aspiration to prevent further escalation of tension in the republic. Sh. Yusupov underlined that the opposition does not need to force entering the Cabinet as it hopes to win at the forthcoming elections at the multi-party basis.

According to Yusupov, Wednesday the Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev had a meeting with the representatives of the priesthood who proposed to him to begin negotiations with the opposition again. In this effect Yusupov said that the TDP will not resume negotiations with the authorities because last week the parties signed a protocol-agreement, but the authorities did not fulfil it.

### Parliament Discusses 'Critical Situation'

*OW3004111792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1023 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An extraordinary session of the Tajik parliament has opened in Dushanbe to discuss the critical situation stemming from the stubborn confrontation of the authorities and the opposition.

There are several rallies under way in Dushanbe simultaneously organized by supporters and opponents of the government as well as opponents to all rallies who demand that the government take speedy measures to normalize the situation. According to some reports, from 50 to 100 thousand people are involved in the actions. Unrest has also started in Huajan, Kulyab, Kurgan-Tyube and other parts of Tajikistan.

According to the parliamentary press service, the Thursday [30 April] session will be held behind closed doors. Not only the press, but government members and employees of the parliament who have always attended sessions have been left outside.

Before the beginning of the session President Rakhman Nabiyev held talks with the Muslim leader of the republic Kazhdi Akbar Turazhonzoda who represented the opposition. The press secretary of the president Mahmud Shahobiddinov said nothing is known of the outcome of the meeting because it was held in private.

### Rallies 'Proceeding Peacefully'

*LD3004093892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Text] The mass meetings of government and opposition supporters in Dushanbe are continuing. Over 100,000 people are taking part in them. According to the Tajikistan government's press center, the meetings are proceeding peacefully without clashes between the opposing sides. However, opposition supporters have blocked the Tajik parliament building, where a session is taking place today. The opposition is protesting against the holding of the session itself and against the reappointment of parliament speaker Safarali Kenjayev, who resigned a week ago.

Because the parliament building is blocked, the agenda for the session is not yet known. The press center also denied reports which have appeared in some of the mass media that the opposition has demanded the resignation of the president of Tajikistan.

## Turkmenistan

### President Announces Plans for Own Army

*LD3004062892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0300 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Text] Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov says the Republic will have its own army very soon and that it will number 40,000 men. ANI reports the future officer cadres are already being trained in Turkey.

### Turkmen-Iranian Border Procedure Simplified

*LD2804211392 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0800 GMT 25 Apr 92*

[Text] In accordance with an accord reached at talks between representatives of Turkmenistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, an international crossing point with a simplified procedure began operation today on the Turkmen-Iranian border. The border may be crossed every day during daylight hours. The basic document for leaving is an insert in a normal [internal] passport. Those inhabitants of Turkmenistan who wish to go to Iran can obtain this insert at any visa office. Inhabitants of other states of the CIS need external passports to cross the border.

### Refugees Return to Afghanistan; Fear Repression

*LD2904043592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0930 GMT 27 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Znamenskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Apr—A total of 259 Afghans of the Teki tribe returned home voluntarily on 25 April, the CIS Forces press center told ITAR-TASS today, adding that a week of talks between the Turkmen and Afghan authorities made this possible.

The Teki crossed onto Turkmen territory and pitched their tents five kilometers from the border on 20 April. They refused to return to Afghanistan, saying they feared repression from the mujahidin groups.

### Turkey To Broadcast TV Programs To Turkmenistan

*LD2904121492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1141 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[By TURKMEN PRESS—TASS]

[Text] Ashkhabad April 29 TASS—Turkey will begin test TV broadcasts to Turkmenistan in the near future, officials from Turkmen Television said on Wednesday [28 April].

The first experimental programme will be broadcast for three hours on Wednesday evening by the Third Channel which used to receive TV broadcasts from the Russian Television.

The local TV continues work to provide reliable satellite communication. The first broadcast will show whether the system operates normally.

The date of the beginning of regular Turkish broadcasts has not yet been specified. It may be announced during the visit of Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel due on May 1.

The Turkish State TV and Radio Company is planning to start its broadcasts to Central Asian republics in mid-May.

The "Euroasia" network will feature entertaining, information and cultural programmes from seven to 13 hours daily.

### Interior Ministry Confiscates Independent Journal

*LD2904180192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1745 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Ashkhabad—28 April in Ashkhabad Airport Turkmenistan Interior Ministry officers arrested the run of the 2d issue of DAYANCH (BUTTRESS) independent journal. The airport's militia patrol alongside the run of the journal published in Moscow in the Russian and Turkmen languages delivered by Moscow-Ashkhabad flight N701, arrested its escorts as well as the journal's employees including the editor-founder Mukhamedmurad Salamatov who were meeting the cargo. The detained persons were taken to Turkmenistan's Interior Ministry, put into various offices and after a 4-hour stay in the ministry building were released without a charge. The cause of detention is that the journal had not been registered with the Republican State Committee for the Press. As Salamatov reported to PF [POSTFACTUM], in late-March, this year, the run of 1st issue of DAYANCH journal—4,500 copies—had also been confiscated by the Interior Department of Ashkhabad City executive committee officials with a similar motivation. I took the city executive committee interior department to court because I consider such an act to be lawless, Salamatov reported. According to him, the Turkmenistan SEGODNYA newspaper, also unregistered in the republic's State Committee for the Press, was approved by the republic's President Saparmurad Niyazov, it is published in Moscow and freely circulated. They simply take revenge on us for our independence from political organisations and free thinking, for criticism of Turkmenia administration. The reference to the fact that the journal is not registered and the confiscation of its run are an attempt to stifle the only free Turkmen edition, Salamatov stated.

## Armenia

### Second 'Massive Attack' in Month Reported

*NC2904190692 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] A massive attack, the second in a month, was launched at 1130 today on Stepanakert. This followed several days of shelling of the Nagorno-Karabakh capital, including attacks with reactive shells.

Azerbaijani armed formations, made up of nearly 700 infantrymen and assisted by 10 armored vehicles, attempted to occupy Stepanakert's outskirts after launching an attack from Dzhanhasan Village. In a simultaneous push, Azerbaijani guerrillas attacked the Armenian village of Karin-Tak from their positions near Zariflu Village. Karin-Tak Village is the closest Armenian settlement to Azerbaijani gun emplacements in Shusha.

The self-defense forces headquarters informed us at 1530 that both attacks were repulsed. One armored vehicle was hit. More then 10 attackers were killed and nearly 25 were injured. The Armenian side's losses are three dead and five injured.

At 1600, the Azerbaijani Army detachments resumed their offensive from their base in Khaibalu. The detachment, made up of almost 500 men, is covered by a few armored cars and two tanks. The battle is continuing.

According to accounts by residents of Karin-Tak and Shushikent, a fierce exchange of fire took place in Shusha last night for a few hours. It is believed to be yet another clash between the formations favoring the Azerbaijani People's Front and the Azerbaijani Army units.

The shelling in Martuninskiy Rayon is intensifying. The Armenian Karmir-Shuka and Herher Villages were shelled with the cannons deployed near the Azerbaijani village of Khachar. Five apartment buildings were destroyed.

According to reports from Armenia's Kapanskiy Rayon, a large concentration of troops, artillery, and armored cars has been observed near the Azerbaijani base at Kazandzhi Village in Zangelanskiy Rayon. During the last few hours, Kapan City and the highway linking Kapan to other settlements have been coming under fire from this base.

It is reported from Krasnoselskiy Rayon that a group of 30 Azerbaijanis carrying automatic weapons tried to occupy the approaches to the rayon center. They immediately withdrew after fire was returned.

Additional Azerbaijani forces are being deployed near Krasnoselsk and the Armenian Artsvashen Village.

[Yerevan Armenia's Radio International Service at 1630 GMT on 29 April reports: "Twenty-five Grad rockets and 30 artillery salvos were fired on Stepanakert's northern section from Shusha throughout 28 April. The shelling resumed at 0800 on 29 April. Six apartment buildings were damaged." The radio also reports: "Residents of Karin-Tak and Shorch villages, which are near Shusha, recount that a continuous exchange of fire was heard in Shusha for several hours early on the morning of 29 April. Apparently a clash took place between the Azerbaijan People's Front detachments and the volunteers of the national Army. The latter are supporting acting President Yakub Mamedov's government. As in the rest of Azerbaijan, the disagreements also have intensified here on the eve of the presidential elections."]

### Defense Ministry Meeting on Border Situation

*NC2904205192 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1950 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] The Armenian Defense Ministry informed an ARMENPRES correspondent that as of 1700 on 29 April, a tense atmosphere prevailed on the Armenian-Azerbaijani front. It also is being noted that there has been a massing of troops and military hardware since 27 April in Azerbaijan's Kazakhskiy, Kedabekskiy, and Zangelanskiy Rayons.

A consultative meeting of the border troop commanders took place at the Armenian Defense Ministry on 29 April to formulate additional measures to defend the Republic's borders. Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sargsyan chaired the meeting.

### CSCE Delegation Meets With Araktsyan

*NC3004074992 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] On 27 April, Armenian Supreme Soviet Chairman Babken Ararktsyan received CSCE envoys Mario Sika, Italy's deputy foreign Minister; John Pernel, U.S. vice-consul in St. Petersburg; and Austrian General Radauer.

The delegation arrived in Transcaucasia to prepare the ground for the upcoming visit by Mario Raffaeli, chairman of the special international conference on Nagorno-Karabakh, and to discuss conditions for a cease-fire.

The conference, which will be held in Minsk, was the central issue at the hour-long meeting. The sides were unanimous in their belief that such a conference is of enormous importance and urgency.

Ararktsyan emphasized that the mere fact that a conference is being held is a large step in resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. He added that the creation of reliable guarantees for the Armenian population of Karabakh to lead a normal life, the prevention of the intolerable infringements against Armenia's borders by Azerbaijan, and other matters causing serious concern to the international community must be the main issues at the conference. It is also important, he said, that the Minsk conferen[illegible]ake practical steps to resolve the issue and not be merely theoretical in nature, as a number of previous meetings on the issue have been.

In clarifying their position, the guests said that the conference's success depends on the readiness of the sides involved to make reciprocal concessions, and that the main objective of the conference is to create guarantees for regional security.

The CSCE delegates understood that representatives from Nagorno-Karabakh's should be able to take part in the conference. They said that the actual of date of conference will be made public some time in mid-May, after Raffaeli's visit to the region.

At the end of the meeting, Ararktsyan wished the envoys a successful mission.

## Parliament Rejects President's Economic Program

*OW2904120792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1021 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [28 Apr], the Armenian parliament rejected the programme for social and economic development presented by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Prime Minister Gagik Arutyunyan two weeks before.

Armenian legislators believe that the programme is too abstract and does not reflect the current economic situation.

During the session, Gagik Arutyunyan, who is also Armenia's Vice-President, announced his resignation as Prime Minister. The resignation was not accepted by the president.

After the programme was rejected, Levon Ter-Petrosyan told the MP's that from now onwards such drafts would be in the form of presidential decrees and would not be submitted to parliament. He also said that the government would not attend parliamentary sessions till the parliament switches over to its basic responsibility of making laws.

On Wednesday [29 April] morning, the Armenian parliament discussed organizational matters, including the procedure of recalling MPs.

## State Minister Calls Parliament 'Invalid'

*OW2904181392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1552 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenian State Minister Grigoriy Areshan called the parliament "to some extent, invalid". Speaking to reporters in Yerevan Wednesday [29 April], the minister said that over the past month the government submitted to the parliament over 20 draft laws, however, none of them has yet been discussed. The government believes that these laws are needed to build a democratic state.

Areshan admitted the possibility of dissolving the parliament and holding new elections. "But the parliament should be professional", the minister pointed out.

## 'Parliamentary Crisis' Said To Begin

*LD2904214192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2011 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Yerevan—According to Armenian leaders and politicians, a parliamentary crisis begins in Armenia. On April 28, at a session of Armenian Supreme Soviet, Gagik Arutyunyan, vice-president, premier minister of the republic, said that the parliament should come to a final decision on the program on privatization and market transfer developed by the government. On April 14, president proposed a draft decree main directions of the social and economic development of the Republic of Armenia. The parliament discussed the draft during a fortnight without any results. The government deals with solution of everyday problems of the republic, but needs also a program for perspective development, said Arutyunyan. The government head stressed that the parliament's decision on the question will influence allocation of large sums from the stabilization funds of IMF for privatization, and reforms of the banking, tax, and finance systems of the republic. The IMF spokesmen are in Yerevan. An agreement has ben already concluded on allotment of 50 million [currency not specified] for Armenia. Babken Ararktsyan, speaker of the parliament, also spoke about this. After numerous voting and repeated voting, a decision on the government's draft was never adopted. Thereafter, Gagik Arutyunyan said that if the question is not solved, he will resign.

Levon Ter-Petrosyan, republic's president, who spoke in the end of session, condemned the opposition of taking a non-constructive position, which blocks adoption of the draft decree, especially the parliamentary fraction of the party Dashnaktsutyun and the party National Democratic Union. He said that Dashnaks, being socialists, are in principle against introduction of market relations, whereas National Democratic Union, headed by the former premier, Vazgen Manukyan, blocks the draft decree because of personal ambitions. The president said that he has to issue a decree, in the frames of his rights, which adopts the government draft decree as a basis for reforms. The decree will order the government to act in accordance with the draft decree provisions. President Ter-Petrosyan added that he will not admit the situation destabilization in the republic or repetition of the Georgian variant, and that he will not accept the resignation of the government. He offered the following: The parliament should have a possibility to declare a referendum on confidence to the president and his cabinet. The president, on his part, should have a right to offer a referendum on confidence to the parliament. Depending on the results, either the parliament should dissolve itself, or the president will resign. In case the parliament does not accept a decision on holding economic reforms in the republic, Mr. Ter-Petrosyan will sign a decree on granting to the president of additional rights. The government's draft decree of social and economic development is not a law, but a conception, therefore, according to the constitution, does not demand an approval of the parliament. The decision to vote the draft decree in the Supreme Soviet was connected with presence in Armenia of the IMF representatives, with an aim of demonstration of solidarity between the government and the parliament in what concerns the transfer to the market. As during the last weeks, at the parliament sessions 140 to 150 deputies of 260 have been present, whereas 131 votes are needed for adoption of the draft decree (simple majority), the opposition which is not numerous can block adoption of decisions. On April 28, at the session 155 deputies were present, with 121 of them voting for the government's draft decree.

In the evening of April 28, Paruir Airikyan, chairman of the opposition union National Self-Determination, spoke over the Yerevan TV. He accused the government and the president of the setting up of this situation, but also said that the present parliament is not viable: The parliament and constitution have been left to Armenia from Armenian SSR. He reckons that a possible exit from the situation can consist only in convocation of the constituent assembly, adoption of a new constitution and new elections to the parliament. On April 29 at 1000 a manifestation of the political opposition began before the building of the Supreme Soviet.

## Parliament Debates Quorum, To Reconvene 4 May

*NC3004060492 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Report by unidentified reporter from the Armenian Supreme Soviet on 29 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] In opening today's session, Supreme Soviet Chairman Babken Ararktsyan gave the podium to Kim Balayan, chairman of the Legal Affairs Commission, who proposed that the session discuss the question of a quorum. This issue has been discussed a number of times recently because parliamentary work has gone undone due to a lack of a quorum.

The Armenian parliament has 260 seats. Laws and decisions are passed by a simple majority; that is, 131 deputies have to approve any decision made, and to date the credentials of only 238 deputies have been recognized.

Speaking for the Legal Affairs Commission, Balayan proposed that the number needed for a quorum be reduced and a new system for passing laws and decisions be established, saying:

[Balayan] Article 1: The Supreme Soviet session is valid if more than half of the total number of deputies—that is, at least 131—are present. Article 2: The Supreme Soviet adopt drafts and decisions with a simple majority of the deputies whose credentials have been recognized, provided that this simple majority is not less then one-third of the total number of deputies—that is 87 votes [words indistinct]. Constitutional amendments could be passed by two-thirds of the deputies whose credentials have been recognized, provided that the number is not less then half of the total number of deputies—that is 131. [passage indistinct]

[Reporter] The deputies expressed opposing views on this. Some even proposing that deputies be brought to the carpet and penalized, even dismissed, to prevent unwarranted abstentions.

The chairman made three proposals. The draft was presented by the Legal Affairs Commission, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, and Shahen Petrosyan.

The Commission's draft was accepted as a base at first reading, getting the support of 134 deputies. The draft says that the Supreme Soviet must adopt laws and drafts with a simple majority of the deputies whose credentials have been recognized, provided that that number is not less then one-third of the total number of the deputies. The Supreme Soviet can adopt constitutional amendments with a two-thirds vote of deputies whose credentials have been recognized, provided that it is more then half of the total number of deputies.

After the recess, the session was cut short again due to lack of a quorum. My colleague Manuk Ter-Stepanyan asked Ara Saakyan, the Supreme Soviet's first deputy chairman, to comment on this.

[Saakyan] You should realize that there are explanations for the absenteeism. [words indistinct] The deputies from Nagorno-Karabakh cannot spend their days here. We also have deputies from Moscow and St. Petersburg. We have deputies who are, unfortunately, always ill. [words indistinct] Some deputies spend a lot of time traveling. [passage omitted]

Some deputies never [words indistinct] because of other obligations. This is why it appears that we have to give serious consideration to reforming the system without infringing on anyone's rights. [words indistinct] I think that those deputies who consider any move to resolve this impasse as an administrative measure are mistaken. [passage omitted]

Let us see if our efforts to strengthen the legislature would be successful.

[Ter-Stepanyan] Lately there have been growing calls in the Supreme Soviet for an early dissolution of the Supreme Soviet. Are we to conclude from what you are saying that it is still too early to do that?

[Saakyan] I do not link the Supreme Soviet's early dissolution to a timetable, but to the productivity of its work. This Supreme Soviet has an important function and role to fulfill, and yet it has often not fulfilled them.

It has not begun to fulfill them. The Supreme Soviet must lay down the legislative ground and foundation to ensure subsequent [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] The Supreme Soviet will resume its deliberations on 4 May.

## Country Allegedly on Verge of 'Collapse'

*PM2904100992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Apr 92 p 7*

[Artem Ivanyan report: "Is It Not Bad for Parliamentarians To Watch Television?"]

[Text] Yerevan—The Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies had not yet finished when the supposition occurred to me that Armenian parliamentarians had decided, impressed by the television relays (Moscow newspapers, with the exception of ARGUMENTY I FAKTY, have not been published in Yerevan since the beginning of 1992), to repeat the initial actions of their Moscow colleagues: The Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia rejected the president's plan for stabilizing and developing the economy, which had been presented in general outline by Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who, like Boris Yeltsin, is head of the executive. Although formally—and here there is an obvious difference compared with Russian power structures—the prime minister's job is held by Gagik Arutyunyan, Armenia's present vice president, who just a couple of years ago was head of the republic Communist Party Central Committee Socioeconomic Department.

The Russian deputies' example was seized upon in Yerevan, and the government program was ditched after two rounds of voting. This could mark the start of a protracted confrontation between the republic's parliament and government. True, L. Ter-Petrosyan believes that the executive has the right not to wait for parliament's verdict and to be guided by its own deliberations. Particularly as the opposition forces had sufficient time to publish an alternative stabilization program, although nobody advanced specific proposals in parliamentary sessions.

The moment when the parliament of the Republic of Armenia returned the government's draft budget for the first half of this year for additional work may be considered the first alarm signal indicating an approaching crisis between the republic's executive and legislature. Supreme Soviet deputies proposed that the Cabinet of Ministers submit to them a capital construction program by the end of the month and a comprehensive plan of measures to surmount the financial crisis before 15 May.

Then Prime Minister G. Arutyunyan, addressing the session, once again described Armenia's economic and financial position as extremely grave, making it totally impossible to put together a budget that is at all balanced. It enshrines a deficit of approximately 26 percent, and the state coffers' receipts are extremely irregular and at huge intervals. To acquire vitally necessary grain, Armenia needs no less than approximately $10 billion a month, which the republic naturally does not have. Why was the price of grain quoted in "greenbacks"? The thing is that, according to the prime minister, the CIS republics have essentially stopped selling grain crops to their neighbors, particularly for "wooden" money. Therefore the local government, mindful of Armenia's future membership of the IMF and other authoritative financial establishments of the world community, is studying the question of obtaining urgent credits from the United States and other powers which are prepared to help independent Armenia initially.

All conversations with the people of Yerevan today begin and end with these questions: "How are we to live on such wretched wages? Where are we to buy food for the children?" Just as in Russia. Indeed, how are they to provide for a family, when the minimum wage in the republic has been set at approximately 400 rubles? It is both funny and sad: Owing to the lack of currency in government accounts, Raffi Hovannesian, leader of the Foreign Ministry, who is, by the way, a U.S. citizen, travels to talks and on foreign visits at his own expense, sometimes thanks to the charity of a particular diaspora.

Therefore I personally was not surprised when the boldest deputies of the Armenian parliament decided publicly to ascertain the ideas of President L. Ter-Petrosyan about the prices of things in Yerevan today, suspecting that the leader of the republic is divorced from the burdens of his fellow citizens. It turned out that through the darkened windows of the presidential Mercedes it is possible to make out the fabulous price tags on foreign food on stalls in the street when the counters in state stores are empty. Yerevan prices have gradually gotten close to Moscow prices, while the huge discrepancy in wages has remained the same as it was both two months and three months ago, before the liberalization of price formation....

Just six months ago, during the presidential election campaign, candidates from a number of opposition parties threatened to swamp Armenia with all essential foods from abroad. Levon Ter-Petrosyan won, however, and the motley opposition is still quite unable to forget political differences and extend the hand of cooperation to the government, which is bogged down in waves of economic disorder caused, above all, by the war in Karabakh, the permanent transport blockades, and the grave legacy inherited following the ruinous schemes of the former communist regime. Only quite recently I learned from well-informed sources that the opposition Dashnak party is ready to propose its own plenipotentiaries for the leadership of a number of paramount ministries and departments. It is already spring, however, and talk of forming, let us assume, a coalition government or a cabinet of popular trust has subsided. Is the winter "paralysis" of industry really not sufficient to criticize government programs once again on the basis of political motives?

There is nowhere else to retreat to: Armenia is on the verge of a financial and economic collapse.

## Azerbaijan

### Footage of Alleged Chemical Weapons Broadcast

*LD2904194192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Video report by corrspondent V. Sinitsin from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh leadership has once again categorically denied that the Armenian side used chemical weapons against Shusha. The Armenian Foreign Ministry stated today that Azerbaijan's claims that the Nagorno-Karabakh self-defense forces used shells containing cyanide compounds are fabrications. This disinformation, the document says, can only mean that Azerbaijan itself plans to use chemical weapons in the Karabakh conflict.

That was an official text. Now here is a report by our correspondent. Naturally, here in Moscow we are unable to verify the facts contained in the report, but the video footage is proof in itself.

[Sinitsin] While Russia and the Unted States are working toward an agreement on eliminating their stocks of chemical weapons, the Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh have already begun to do away with them. How are they doing it? A day or two ago, after the artillery bombardment of the town of Shusha, a large number of needles in powder were extracted from two shells which had not exploded. Laboratory analysis proved that the powder was a toxic substance from the cyanide group. [video shows mountain scenery, artillery exchanges, powder being emptied from a shell, analysis of powder in the laboratory]

At the same time many servicemen and residents in Shusha have developed rashes, nausea, dizziness, and sharp pains in their bones. Quite evidently the Armenian terrorists inherited not only the equipment of the 366th Regiment from the former USSR Army but also the property of the chemicals unit in Khankendi, formerly Stepanakert. [video shows rash on man's back, burned bus, and more chemicals being retrieved and placed in plastic bag]

Also, a group of terrorists, this time from the Armenian Republic, made an incursion into Tauz Rayon of Azerbaijan and, after shooting two inhabitants in the border village of (Avkeri), took the bodies away with them. The bodies were returned only after lengthy talks. [video shows servicemen negotiating, two dead bodies]

### Roundup of Hostilities in Nagarno-Karabakh Area

*OW2904175192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1552 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenian sources report that as a result of rocket artillery shelling at the Nagorno-Karabakh administrative center, Stepanakert (Khankendi), April 28 and in the morning of April 29, 15 people were wounded. Also, some villages of the Martuni region came under fire of Azeri forces.

The situation on the Armenian-Azeri border remains tense. On the morning of April 29 nearly 30 Azeris attempted to attack the Armenian city of Krasnoselsk. The attack was beaten off.

Meanwhile, the Azeri Defense Ministry reported on the "Grad" rocket system shelling of the city of Shusha from the direction of Stepanakert (Khankendi) the evening of April 28 and morning of April 29. At least 10 people were wounded. There has been material damage.

According to the Ministry, Armenian armed units and armored vehicles are concentrated on Armenian territory near the border with the Zangelan region of Azerbaijan (8-10,000 soldiers, nearly 20 tanks and 20 armored vehicles, 10 armored personnel carriers and 10 "Grad" systems.

### Officials Comment on Regiment's Complaints

*PM2904103992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Apr 92 p 1*

[Report by Captain Third Rank A. Pelts: "Regiment Has Found Itself in Difficult Situation. But an Ultimatum Will Not Help"]

[Text] This letter came from a radiotechnical regiment in Azerbaijan, near Baku. The officers' assembly appealed to the highest instances: to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, Aviation Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, the Officers' Assembly coordinating council, and several central newspapers' editorial offices.

"Our radiotechnical regiment," the letter says, "is on alert duty but in fact is not fulfilling its mission and is not in a state of combat readiness." The reasons for this state are then listed: For a long time the unit has not had its full quota of specialists, many soldiers have gone absent without leave. For years the officers have been waiting for a legal opportunity to move from the Transcaucasus Military District to other regions. They remain in the ranks but are obliged to defend primarily themselves and their equipment and weapons against the extremists' constant attacks. There are also difficulties in dealing with the local authorities and the hostile local inhabitants.

The situation is aggravated by chronic social problems. The majority of officers, unwilling to risk the lives of their children and wives, have sent them wherever they can. It is virtually impossible to render material assistance to the families: Mail remittances are limited to... 500 rubles. It is even more complicated to send your relatives simple items you have acquired since, the letter says, there is an unspoken ban on the issue of containers to servicemen.

The list of serious problems could be continued. But it is already clear what sort of a situation the regiment's servicemen are in. Their repeated attempts to draw the attention of the district commander to the situation which has taken shape have had no practical results. The situation has continued to deteriorate. Literally no one has come to serve. After the present release into the reserve of soldiers who have served the set term, the unit will be at less than 10 percent of its strength.

Further on the letter acquires the tone of an ultimatum. It states that unless measures are taken in the very near future to resolve these problems, "the regiment will take the unit's banner and its personal weapons" and leave for Russian territory...

There is no denying that this is a very resolute statement. So we immediately took the letter to work.

Our correspondent for the Transcaucasus Military District immediately got in touch with Major General Yuriy Yeremeyev, chief of staff of the fourth army:

"We know of the regiment's problems. I can assure you that we are trying to do everything possible to resolve them. But I want to stress that the entire district is under virtually the same conditions. Since November last year the army has not been swelled by draftees. The Ukrainians and Byelarusians are leaving to continue their service in their homelands. Absence without leave from the units is acquiring menacing dimensions. Under these conditions we can only 'patch up the holes,' as they say."

Our second interlocutor was Colonel Ramiz Melikov, chief of the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry press center, with whom the editorial office got in touch by telephone:

"There is no ban on the dispatch of containers for servicemen. You are free to send them, but only with the permission of our defense ministry's rear services chief. Why has that been done? You must understand that we do not want goods and weapons whose export from the republic is banned to be sent instead of household items. Yes, we have had instances of this kind, although they are massive. As for the district's combat equipment, we regard it as the property of the republic. I can say nothing as regards the difficulties in transferring officers from the Transcaucasus Military District to other regions. We do not intend to keep anyone by force. We have many problems of our own."

We also got in touch with a spokesman for the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry rear services. Lieutenant Colonel Vaslam Makhmudov came to the telephone:

"We give permission to everyone who wants to send containers. Yes, we check the items and require a certificate showing that the apartment has been surrendered. That is done to prevent the illegal transfer of housing."

Those are the comments which the editorial office received regarding the letter. Of course, they are not enough to answer the servicemen's main questions: Who is to blame for their numerous troubles, how to resolve the long urgent problems, and what to do to prevent the final collapse of an entire military collective?

The arguments of the spokesmen for the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry seem justified but in practice they do indeed put the servicemen in an impasse. All kinds of authorization requested, certificates, and checks are truly reducing the already overwrought people to despair.

Another question about ways out of the existing situation. While being aware of all the complexity of the situation and the acuteness of the military and social problems, we should not, I think, go to extremes. The regiment's departure without leave, the possibility of which the officers write about, can only complicate the situation and ultimately threaten people's lives.

"Ultimatums are of course not a method of resolving problems," the CIS Joint Armed Forces press center stressed. "We are sure that the unit will understand that and that aid from the command will be specific."

A similar certainty was voiced at the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command reception room, which we asked to comment on the letter from the radiotechnical regiment officers.

That means that there is hope of a peaceful solution of the situation. Nonetheless, considering the acuteness of the situation, the editorial office will follow attentively the further course of events. We want to wish the regiment officers one thing: restraint and yet more restraint. We realize that your nerves are strained to the limit, but do everything to prevent a spontaneous eruption and unconsidered actions.

## Parliament Abolishes CIS Baku Garrison

*LD2904195392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A total of 15 people were wounded in Nagorno-Karabakh during last night and today. Stepanakert-Khankendi was fired upon, Armenian sources report.

The Defense Ministry of Azerbaijan has reported that Shusha was shelled from Grad [BM-21 Multiple Rocket System] installations in Stepanakert-Khankendi. The Azerinform agency reported the death of six fighters of the local self-defense battalion. They died in a battle with Armenian armed sub-units in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Here is another report from the INTERFAX agency. The Baku garrison of the CIS Joint Armed Forces has been abolished by a decision of the Azerbaijani parliament.

### 'No Results' in Talks on Nakhichevan Electricity

*LD2904214592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] Talks between leaders of the power engineering departments of Azerbaijan and Armenia on resuming electric power supplies to the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic have yielded no results. The supply was interrupted more than a week ago after the station supplying power to that region was switched off on Armenian territory. Azenergo Director General (Muslim Imanov) told an AZERINFORM correspondent that the Armenian side has grievances against Azeri railway workers who have allegedly blocked traffic to Armenia and therefore refuses to switch on the station until railway traffic resumes.

### Mamedov Confident of Victory in Presidential Race

*OW2904163292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1522 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Etibar Mamedov, leader of the National Independence Party and presidential hopeful, said at a Tuesday [28 April] rally that he was convinced he would win the presidential race. The rally participants, mostly members of the National Front, called for the masses to rally around the idea of an independent Azerbaijan. IF's [INTERFAX] note: Last year in connection with the disagreement with the National Front policy which he described as "a policy of concessions and compromises with the communist leadership in the republic," Mamedov announced his break with the National Front. During the registration of the presidential nominees he garnered 65,008 signatures, trailing behind Elchibey and [Yagub] Mamedov.

Mamedov emphasizes in his program that for 1.5 years as president he will prepare for the democratization of republican socioeconomic life. He believes that a new parliamentary election becomes necessary on a multiparty basis with the invitation of observers from UN and international democratic organizations. He also supported a referendum on the expediency of presidential rule in the republic. Mamedov plans to hold it 1.5 years after the election of the new head of state. If the masses recognize the presidency as inexpedient, the president should automatically resigns.

Touching on the Karabakh problem, the presidential nominee said that this is more than "an ethnic, [as received] this is a state conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan which is laying territorial claims." Mamedov believes that peace in the region must be achieved on the basis of common intentional [as received] law norms. Mamedov said that Azerbaijan should strengthen its borders shortly by making them "non-transparent to any enemy," thus resolving the military aspect of the Karabakh conflict.

### Health Cooperation Protocol Signed With Turkey

*TA2504091892 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 0800 GMT 25 Apr 92*

[Text] Turkey and Azerbaijan have signed a protocol that envisages cooperation in the field of health. Anatolia Agency reports that the protocol was signed by Azerbaijani Minister of Health (Rahim Huseyinov) and Health Minister Yildirim Aktuna, who is holding meetings in Baku. According to the protocol the two countries will cooperate to improve health services, and those wounded in Karabakh who cannot be treated in Azerbaijan will be treated in Turkey. The protocol also envisages the establishment of a coordination committee of experts and the exchange of experts by the two countries. According to the protocol Azerbaijani students will come to Turkey to study. At the talks an agreement was also reached for Turkey to sell medicine to Azerbaijan.

## Georgia

### Russian Troops' Withdrawal Welcomed in Georgia

*LD2904192292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1832 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[By SAKINFORM correspondent Eduard Ediberidze for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi, April 29 TASS—"The withdrawal of the special detachment of the interior forces of Russia from Tskhinvali region is viewed by the Georgian community as a step towards civil peace and harmony," a statement made public here today by the state soviet and the interim government of Georgia said. As far as the consecutive statements issued by representatives of the Confederation of the People of Caucasus are concerned, they in no way help establishment of peace in the region," the statement said.

### S. Ossetia Demands End of Troops' Replacement

*OW2904200392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1812 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The South Ossetian Supreme Council urges the Russian and Georgian governments to stop replacing Russian troops stationed in South Ossetia by the Georgian National Guard. This was said in a statement by Chairman of the South Ossetian Supreme Council Torez Kulumbegov, which Interfax received on Wednesday [29 April].

The movement of the Georgian National Guard units to the CIS Joint Armed Forces' Tskhinval helicopter regiment's base is described as "an open aggression against Georgia". The document says that the Georgian National Guard has taken positions on commanding heights over the city which allows it to easily control "the life line" between Tskhinval and Vladikavkaz (North Ossetia). It can also cut Tskhinval water supply from these positions.

## Militants Block Routes Into South Ossetia

*AU3004075692 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Text] As is known, units of the former USSR internal troops left Samachablo [South Ossetia] on 25 April. However, the Georgian population in Samachablo has not felt any relief at all. On the contrary, all the roads and paths leading into Samachablo have been blocked by Ossetian militants who are not giving the Georgian population the chance to come to their native land. There are shooting incidents and, as before, they are stealing cattle. Vital products and fuel are not reaching the closed zone and spring work is being hindered.

## Mountain Peoples Group Discusses S. Ossetia

*LD3004033192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2011 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Video report by South Ossetia correspondent I. Gugkayeva; first graf announcer-read introduction; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Although the Georgian authorities have said they will observe human rights and the rights of ethnic minorities after the withdrawal of Russian internal troops from South Ossetia, it seems there's a different mood in South Ossetia itself.

[Gugkayeva] The Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus met for a routine session of parliament in Tskhinvali. The agenda included the South Ossetian question, among other things. Tension increased here after the internal troop units withdrew from republican territory. South Ossetian residents, who regarded the military's presence as a guarantee of some degree of stability, now understand that they will have to depend on their own forces, namely those in the national guard who recently took the oath and who are now on duty at posts on the outskirts of Tskhinvali. Previously, soldiers of the internal troops stood here.

Considering the complicated nature of the situation in the region, the Confederation of Mountain Peoples adopted a resolution at the parliament session offering its mediation in organizing and holding talks between Georgia and South Ossetia.

## Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Created

*AU2904173692 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 16 Apr 92 p 1*

[Resolution of the Republic of Georgia Government on the Republic of Georgia State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations issued in Tbilisi on 14 April]

[Text] Due to the necessity to significantly expand and coordinate the Republic of Georgia's foreign economic activities, the Republic of Georgia Government resolves:

1. To create the Republic of Georgia State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

2. To transfer the foreign economic services and organizations of the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Foreign Affairs into the structure of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

3. To transfer the Republic of Georgia customs department to the departmental subordination of the Republic of Georgia State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

4. To appoint Ioseb Elizbar dze [son of Elizbar] Tsiskarishvili as chairman of the Republic of Georgia State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

5. To appoint Teimuraz David dze Mamatsashvili as first deputy chairman of the Republic of Georgia State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, Republic of Georgia minister.

T. Sigua, acting chairman of the Republic of Georgia Government, acting prime minister.

K. Gelashvili, acting manager of the State Office of the Republic of Georgia Government.

Tbilisi, 14 April 1992.

## Human Rights, Social Protection Fund Formed

*AU2904183092 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 21 Apr 92 p 4*

[SAKINFORM report: "With Hope for the Future"]

[Text] The republic's Ministry of Justice has registered the All-Georgian Fund for the Defense of Human Rights and the Social Protection of Prisoners.

The main goal of the fund is to implement the principle of the supremacy of the defense of human rights.

The fund will render material and moral support to people who have suffered as a result of natural disasters and social disorders, large families, pensioners on scanty means, and orphans. It will also guarantee the legal defense of people who are in prison or in an investigation isolation prison. In addition, the fund will render assistance so that gifted young people may be educated and will finance progressive ecological, demographic, and cultural projects.

Giorgiy Tevsadze has been elected as president of the fund and Aleksandr Sesiashvili as vice-president.

### Government To Introduce Currency Alongside Ruble

*LD2904195692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1429 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] Tbilisi—Georgian Deputy Prime Minister Roman Gotsiridze: We hope to put into circulation our own currency alongside the rouble. In an interview with the newspaper BIZNESS NEDELI (BUSINESS OF THE WEEK) N 9, Gotsiridze said the republic has everything for introducing its own currency: Gold, resources and real estate. Gotsiridze thinks the republic will be able to meet all of its food needs only by producing manganese and arsenic. According to Gotsiridze, Georgia exported products worth nearly 300 million U.S. dollars two years ago and given a favorable concurrence of circumstances, this figure may rise ten-fold.

### Republic Contributes $72 Million to IMF

*PM2704123992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 1*

[RIA report: "Georgia Has to Pay the IMF $72 Million"]

[Text] Georgia has to contribute $72 million to the IMF now that it has become a member.

The republic will then be able to obtain credits 400 times greater than this sum.

### Diplomatic Relations With Cuba 'New Landmark'

*AU3004094792 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 21 Apr 92 p 2*

[Unattributed Article: "Georgia-Cuba: Ambassadors Have Been Exchanged"—introductory paragraph published in boldface]

[Text] The visit by the Cuban delegation that was led by Alcibiades Hidalgo Basurto, first deputy minister of foreign relations of the Republic of Cuba, ended in the signing of documents establishing diplomatic relations between Georgia and Cuba at a grand ceremony in Tbilisi.

The sides also adopted the decision on the corresponding accreditation of ambassadors in Tbilisi and Havana.

This event has become a new landmark not only in the history of the Georgian people but also in the history of national diplomacy, one that has transcended the boundaries of the European continent and written a new page in relations between Georgia and Latin America.

"Today, we are laying the foundation for mutual cooperation between our countries," said Tedo Japaridze, Republic of Georgia deputy minister of foreign affairs, during his talks with members of the Cuban delegation. "An open dialogue gives us the opportunity to build economic, cultural, and scientific bridges following the [establishment of a] diplomatic bridge."

"Your republic's specialists have left a clear mark and have contributed their share to the country's economy," pointed out Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Alcibiades Hdalgo Basurto. Through the activities of your geologists, constructors, teachers, and agronomists, Cubans feel sincere friendship toward the Georgian people. Therefore, the establishment of diplomatic relations with Georgia accords with the aspirations of the Cuban people. Broad prospects for the development of commercial and economic, cultural, and scientific and technical relations are being planned."

Widely ranging questions concerning future relations between the two countries were touched upon during the talks. For example, it was decided to exchange specialists, postgraduates, and students on a regular basis and to develop popular diplomacy. Emphasis was placed upon the importance of Georgian-Cuban business contacts and the creation of joint enterprises.

The Cuban delegation was received by Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Republic of Georgia State Council. They held cordial and friendly talks. It was stressed that diplomatic relations between Georgia and Cuba are based upon the principles of mutual respect, the independence, territorial integrity, and self- determination of their countries, and non-interference in one another's internal affairs.

## Estonia

### Russia Says Troops Could Withdraw by 1999

*OW2904213192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1830 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At the 29th of April meeting of the Estonian and Russian working groups on military issues in Tallinn in the context of the Estonian-Russian state talks, the Russian delegation stated that the withdrawal of troops of the former Soviet Union from Estonia could only be completed by 1999. Estonia, on the other hand, insists that all troops be withdrawn from the country by the end of 1992. Presently stationed in Estonia are 22,000 Russian officers and men.

The two sides signed a protocol on the results of the talks which reflects the positions of both sides and specifies their disagreements on the issues under discussion, Estonian Deputy Defense Minister Toomas Puura commented for INTERFAX.

In his words, during the talks Russia requested to retain at its disposal the Paldiskiy nuclear submarine training center which features two training nuclear reactors. Estonia denied this request.

The Russian side received a document which contains a request to leave at Estonia's disposal the military installations which are being abandoned by Russia's troops.

Russia's expert group at the talks was headed by Deputy CinC CIS Navy Admiral Fedor Gromov, the Estonian side, by Deputy Defense Minister Toomas Puura.

The next meeting of the Estonian and Russian delegations is scheduled for May 13-14 in Moscow.

### Russians in Northeast Seek To Avert Tension

*PM2804084192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Apr 92 p 1*

[Correspondent Yuriy Stroganov report under the "Nearby Foreign Parts" rubric: "Danger Mark"]

[Text] Tallinn—A session of the Narva City Soviet has adopted an appeal to voters, the Supreme Council of Estonia, the Supreme Soviet of Russia, and the international community. It expresses concern at the sharp deterioration of the political situation in northeast Estonia in view of the adoption by the republic Supreme Council of the Resolution "On the Enactment of the Law on Citizenship," whereby virtually all the inhabitants of Narva have become people without citizenship or will remain so for a long period.

The appeal urges the rejection of national ambitions and the adoption of common human principles as guidelines and calls upon the parliaments of the states of the former USSR, the Nordic Council, and the European Parliament to further the stabilization of the political and economic situation in Estonia.

Participants in the session did not enter into confrontation with the republic authorities, although such appeals were heard. After expressing the advisability of defining the status of the city through a referendum, they stipulated that it is not the city soviet's objective to separate Narva from Estonia. They propose defusing the difficult situation, brought about by the radical decisions on citizenship, by involving representatives of the Russian-speaking population in tackling the republic's problems and by taking account of the realities of the demographic situation.

The direction in which the situation in the northeast of the republic develops—where a large industrial potential is concentrated and where a large number of nonindigenous people live—will depend on the reasonableness of further actions.

The situation in the northeast has become heated, and if radicals do get the upper hand, an explosion could occur. A prestrike situation exists in Narva. However, it has been possible to stop emotions becoming overcharged among the nonindigenous population so far. A regional conference of trade union organizations of northeast Estonia, for example, has shown that local leaders are ready for dialogue with the authorities. Strike committees have been set up at the Estonskiy and Pribaltiyskiy GRES's [state regional electric power stations], however, no decisive move has yet been made. How many minutes remain before the explosion or will it be possible to avert it, after all? Potential for compromise is contained both in the decisions of the session and the documents of the conference held in Sillamae, although there is no concession in them on the issues fundamental to Russian speakers.

"A decision was made in Sillamae to set up a coordinating commission made up of Supreme Council deputies and representatives of Narva, Sillamae, and Kohtla-Jarve, the Russian Democratic Movement of Estonia [RDME], and trade unions," noted Kh. Barabaner, cochairman of the RDME. "The conference proposed to the parliaments of Estonia and Russia that representatives of the coordinating commission be included as observers at talks between the two states."

The following also indicates a desire for reasonable compromise: The participants in the conference in Sillamae, who were ultimately supported by the Narva deputies, stated that the Supreme Council is the legal organ of authority in the republic and that any attempts to create parallel power structures and question the government's right to make decisions are illegal and lead to further growth in destablization. This is directed at the activity of the Congress of Estonia, which is carrying out attacks on the legally constituted Supreme Council of the republic. The congress, an influential national radical force, is presenting parliament with a number of ultimatums connected with the adoption of the Constitution and the creation of a state assembly, which will put nonindigenous people in an even more difficult situation and complicate the situation in the republic. If its demands are not met the congress virtually states its intention to assume the functions of state power. In such an acute situation a radical attack from the other side is all that is needed to set off the explosion. Fortunately, it has been possible to curb such action to date. But the situation is gradually slipping toward the danger mark, because the demands of the nonindigenous population of northeast Estonia have still not been met.

### Majority in Navy Want To Leave Republic

*PM2704134992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Apr 92 p 3*

[Report by Captain Second Class V. Gromak: "What Do You Do With Nothing To Live On? This Could Leave Us With No Servicemen"]

[Text] Tallinn—Social and everyday conditions for officers, ensigns, and their family members at the Tallinn Naval Base are extremely difficult. The current subsistence wage in Estonia is 2,500 rubles [R]. A private in the Estonian police earns R6-9,000. But a CIS naval lieutenant earns R2,300 on average. Given that prices could rise again in future, servicemen and their families will not even have enough money for bread and water.

Captain Third Class Sergey Volkov, chief of the Tallinn Naval Base Information and Public Relations Department, reports that the number of servicemen wishing to leave Estonia has been calculated, as has the number who would like to remain here permanently. Around 75 percent of officers and ensigns at the base want to leave the republic.

The figures for the level of draftee staffing on ships are interesting too. In 1989 the relevant figure was 87.3 percent, whereas this spring the figure had fallen to 28.9 percent.

### Figures Show Drop in Oil Consumption

*LD2904220992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2011 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] Tallinn—Under the ER [Estonian Republic] Board of Statistics, in 1990 in Estonia 1,603,000 tonnes of fuel crude oil was sold, in 1991—1,253,000 tonnes, in 1992, according to the expert forecast—1,200,000 tonnes will be sold diesel oil 604,510 and 400,000 tonnes accordingly gasoline—523,415 and 300,000 tonnes.

### Government Accused of Human Rights Violations

*OW2904213892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1830 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Dutch delegation of the Helsinki committee members visited places of imprisonment and corrective labour colonies in Estonia and came to the conclusion that the human rights are violated in them.

At a press conference in Tallinn the members of the delegation declared that they were indignant at the usage of punishment rooms. According to the experts, the present system of prisons and corrective labour colonies "only generates new criminals".

The experts will prepare a report for the European Council and the Council of the Northern Countries on results of their tour to Estonia.

## Latvia

### Israeli Defense Minister Arens Arrives

*LD2904111992 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] This morning Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens arrived in Riga. He is on an official visit to Latvia, Lithuania, and Finland. This is the first time a member of the Israeli cabinet has visited Latvia and Lithuania. In the morning Moshe Arens met Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans, and Minister of State Janis Dinevics.

This afternoon Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens is to meet the leaders of the Commissions on defense and internal affairs, and on foreign affairs of the Latvian Supreme Council. At 1600 Moshe Arens will meet Latvian Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis at the Ministry of Defense. Later a news conference will be held, also at the Defense Ministry.

### Holds Exchanges With Deputies

*LD2904200392 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1601 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens today visited the Defense and Internal Affairs Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee and met with Deputies Janis Krumins, Ivars Silars, Peteris Simsons, and others. It must be said that his talks with both committees began, in fact, with an attack. He immediately reminded them that the people of Israel will never forgive Latvia for its citizens having participated in the process which led to the annihilation of 6 million Jewish people during World War II.

In this fashion, for understandable reasons, our deputies were not able to manifest any cordiality toward this gentleman. On the contrary, as Deputy Janis Krumins said, he was in fact put on the defensive.

Ivars Silars said after the meeting that he first had to remind this gentleman that, for example, before the war he himself was able to learn in his native language in a Jewish school in Riga, in the same Latvia which, during the years of awakening, the very first of the republics to break away from the former Soviet Union, opened a Jewish school here in Riga. He also pointed out that there are currently opportunities here for Jewish children to learn in their native language and that everything is being done to ensure the development of Jewish national culture here.

But if we are to speak about crimes and criminals, then it must be said that every people has its degenerates. Mr. Moshe Arens was reminded that this does not mean that we should accuse Israel of the fact that Jewish nationals, during World War II and under the reign of Stalin, participated in the bestialities of the chekists as a result of which many millions of people, innocent people, in the territory of the Soviet Union perished.

For the sake of clarity it should be noted that Mr. Arens has come here to Latvia to pave the way for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Latvia and Israel.

### Holds News Conference

*LD2904231892 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Excerpts] Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens arrived in Riga this morning. [passage omitted]. In the afternoon, he met with leaders of the Latvian Supreme Council's Commission for Defense and Internal Affairs.

At the Defense Ministry, Moshe Arens had a talk with Latvian Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis. Later in the evening they held a news conference in the Defense Ministry.

Moshe Arens told the journalists that he is visiting Latvia in connection with the holocaust, that is, with the annihilation of the Jews in Latvia during World War II. He also spoke about this question with Latvian politicians. Less was said about defense matters.

At the news conference, the foreign journalists were interested in what Latvian Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis had to say about the talks with Moscow on the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic states.

Talavs Jundzis reported that the talks taking place in Moscow with Russian representatives have been rather unsuccessful. The Russian side has become very uncommunicative, while here in Riga the representatives of the Russian troops are raising various complaints.

Moshe Arens leaves Latvia today.

### Official Dissatisified With Withdrawal Conditions

*OW2904213392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1830 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Commander of the Latvian Defense Forces Dainis Turlais has expressed dissatisfaction with the course of preparation of an agreement with Russia on conditions, terms and sequence of the withdrawal of troops from Latvia and their legal status for the withdrawal period. Speaking at a press conference in the Latvian embassy in Moscow Tuesday [28 April], he pointed out that the main problem of the talks is now a timetable for the withdrawal of formerly Soviet troops, which are currently under Russian jurisdiction.

Latvia hopes that the withdrawal will be completed by September of 1993, in order to hold parliamentary elections without the presence of foreign troops. The headquarters of the Northwestern group of forces is due to leave Riga by October of 1992.

Turlais said that Latvia intends to take control over assets left by the troops on republican territory and hopes that Russia will grant it small arms and border control equipment.

### Agreement Reached With Russia on Customs Posts

*LD2904183892 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0430 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] Latvian and Russian representatives have come to an agreement on arranging customs controls at the Liepaja naval port. The customs posts on the roads leading to the port, which is under the jurisdiction of the Russian Army, will remain for the time being; they will continue to be guarded by Land Defense guards.

Russian naval ships will not leave Liepaja naval port until the appropriate agreement is reached with Latvian customs representatives. This decision was made in talks on 25 April between the Latvian Defense guard, the Ministry of Defense, and Russian military representatives, according to Ivars Redisons, brigade commander of the Latvian Border Guard.

The talks took place after Land Defense guards assisted customs officials in setting up seven customs control points on roads leading to the Liepaja naval port on 25 April. This action took place in connection with a request from customs officers to erect these customs points and for the Defense Guards to provide protection. The customs points are necessary to check the removal of goods and raw materials from Latvia using naval ships.

### Referendum on Citizenship Evokes Mixed Reception

*PM2904103192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Apr 92 p 2*

[Correspondent Oleg Meshkov report: "Am I Not Obliged To Be a Citizen? Sensation in Latvia: Statement by Latvian Republic Supreme Council Chairman A. Gorbunovs in Support of Holding a Referendum on the Question of Citizenship"]

[Text] Riga—The leader of parliament explained his decision in the following way: "I am forced to change my position regarding the question of citizenship as the situation has reached a deadlock. None of the various ways of granting citizenship under discussion at the moment really satisfies any of the interested parties."

Let me remind you that the draft law adopted at its first reading sets out the following criteria for citizenship: a 16-year period of residence in Latvia, knowledge of the state language, and loyalty to the republic. Now people are saying alot about the draft law's discriminatory nature. The point is not only that the residence qualification stipulates a very long period. There are a number of points which make this law unacceptable to the majority of non-Latvians: the discretionary procedure for the granting of citizenship, the quotas (only a limited number of applicants is laid down each year), which can easily nullify the point of the whole procedure, and the absence of regulation of the mechanisms, which means that there is a possibility of arbitrariness in carrying out all the various examinations and checks. In short, the "concept of gentle pressure" sticks out like a sore thumb.

It can be assumed that approximately one-third of the Russian-speaking population will not receive citizenship under this law.

Therefore the idea emerged of cutting the Gordian knot and holding a referendum on the question of citizenship among the "undisputed citizens"—persons who were living in Latvia prior to 17 June 1940 and their descendants.

It is already known that the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs has made an official protest at the fact that the majority of the Russian-speaking population living in the republic is being debarred from deciding its own fate. But what is the attitude toward the referendum in Latvia proper? I must say that it is varied. The national-radicals as represented by the "citizens' committee" reject the idea of a plebiscite out of hand.

The "Equal Rights" parliamentary opposition faction categorically takes exception to the referendum, claiming that it is necessary first to determine who will be a citizen and to carry out naturalization. But after this no referendum will be necessary any more and it will be possible to elect deputies to the saeyena (sejm).

### Los Angeles Consul's Dismissal Approved

*OW2904213592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1830 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Latvian Foreign Ministry has approved the decision of the Latvian ambassador to the USA Anatols Dinbergs to dismiss Aivars Jerumanis from the post of the Latvian honorary consul in Los Angeles. Dinbergis explained that "Jerumanis' public speeches did not correspond with international diplomatic norms".

Latvian emigrant press has been against Jerumanis' dismissal.

## Lithuania

### Minister Signs Agreement to Join IMF

*LD2904224892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2215 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington, 30 Apr [Moscow Time]—On 29 April, Vytenis Aleskaitis, Lithuania's minister of international economic relations, appended his signature, on behalf of that republic, to the articles of agreement of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Lithuania has thus become the first former Soviet republic to join the IMF. The Fund's managing council put Lithuania's initial quota at some $95 million. With Lithuania's entry into the IMF, the membership of the international financial organization stands at 157 countries.

### Russian Military Flights Violate Sovereignty

*LD2904204692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1600 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Excerpt] Flights in Lithuanian airspace by military transport planes and helicopters under Russian jurisdiction violate the sovereignty of our state. This was stated at today's news conference by Supreme Council Press Attache Audrius Azubalis.

He announced that the increased flights to the Kedainiai and Kazlu-Ruda airfields and the movement of recruits from Russia were discussed at yesterday's meeting of the Lithuanian Provisional Defense leadership.

After the meeting, Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis sent a telegram to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is also that country's defense minister. The telegram expresses the hope that these actions would stop. Otherwise, said Azubalis, Lithuania may be forced to take measures in response. This does not mean some military confrontation as we have sufficient other means.

Audrius Azubalis drew attention to the fact that the foreign army units in our state are supplied with electricity, communications, and other services by Lithuania.

A Ministry of National Defense representative has contacted Koleshnikov, commander of the Panevezys garrison of the former Soviet Army, about stopping the flights. The latter stated that he was guided by Russian laws. [words indistinct] disregards Lithuania's sovereignty. [passage omitted]

## Landsbergis Protests Russian Troop Arrivals

*OW2904213692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1830 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Head of the Lithuanian parliament Vytautas Landsbergis has sent a telegram to Russian President Boris Yeltsin asking him to prevent sending additional troops to Lithuania.

As BF [BALTFAX] reported earlier, last week the Lithuanian side expressed protest over the arrival of recruits for forces stationed in the republic.

## Russian Delegation Postpones Visit to 12-14 May

*OW2804201192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1846 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuanian Government Press Service reports that a visit to Vilnius by Russia's delegation headed by Minister of Justice Nikolay Fedorov, originally scheduled for April 27-29, has been transferred to May 12-14. The delegation was expected in Vilnius for the signing of the Lithuanian-Russian agreement "On Legal Assistance and Legal Relations in Civil, Family, and Criminal Cases".

Moscow notified its Lithuanian counterparts that, coincidentally, Minister Fedorov will have to attend a session.

## Supreme Council Adopts Presidency Referendum

*PM2904143392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2*

[Report by Nikolay Lashkevich: "Two Referendums in Three Weeks in Lithuania"]

[Text] An all-republic referendum on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania this year and the compensation for material losses is to be held 14 July—this is the decision adopted by the Supreme Council at Monday evening's [27 April] session.

The idea for such a referendum was first put forward by the Christian Democratic Party. It was energetically endorsed by President V. Landsbergis. "This would be of great help to our political efforts and to our delegation, which is demanding the withdrawal of the alien army in talks with Russia"—this was how the head of the Lithuanian parliament defined the objective of the referendum in one of his statements.

However, during the discussion the expediency of such a referendum, in which the answer is a foregone conclusion, vexed many deputies least of all. They were more concerned with its date. Two dates were proposed—14 June, and 23 May, the day when a second referendum, "On Restoring the Institution of President of the Lithuanian Republic," will be held. Although two referendums with an interval of three weeks will cost the state a pretty penny, the proposal to hold the two on the same day was not carried.

## Prime Minister Signs New Reduction Directive

*OW2804223092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1846 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuanian Prime Minister has signed a new administration reduction direction. The new direction was necessitated by the fact that last week the Parliament failed to approve the earlier adopted prime minister's direction on a 30-50 per cent "replacement" of the ministerial and departmental employees.

The Premier uses the same reasons to motivate his second direction: the employees' abuse of power, lackadaisical attitude toward their duties, and unlawful involvement in commercial activities.

According to the Prime Minister's direction, the government administration ought to be reduced by 15 per cent.